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Assistance in mine action

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Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report, covering the period from August 2009 to July 2011, is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 64/84, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the implementation of that resolution and on follow-up to previous resolutions on assistance in mine clearance and mine action, including on relevant United Nations policies and activities.

2. The report stresses the impact of mine action in the five major areas of United Nations work, namely peace and security; humanitarian affairs; economic development; human rights and international law, and describes the efforts of the United Nations Mine Action Team (consisting of 12 United Nations departments, agencies, funds and programmes,[1] including, as observer entities, the Office of Legal Affairs, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), the World Bank and the International Committee of the Red Cross) to integrate mine action in all five areas. The report begins with an update on efforts to promote the universalization and implementation of international legal instruments related to mine action, with key developments, including the adoption of the Cartagena Action Plan 2010-2014 to support enhanced implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel

* A/66/150.

[1] The 12 entities are: the United Nations Mine Action Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

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Mines and on Their Destruction (the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention), the entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions on 1 August 2010, and the First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, held in Vientiane from 9 to 12 November 2010.

3. The report highlights efforts to integrate mine action into United Nations peacekeeping operations and humanitarian and development programming and provides an overview of the coordination and rapid response mechanisms developed to address the threats of landmines and explosive remnants of war, including obsolete and degraded ammunition stockpiles and improvised explosive devices. In addition, the report notes that mine action is based on effective partnerships within the United Nations as well as between the Organization, its Member States and civil society, including non-governmental organizations and individuals.

4. The report also outlines the achievements made since the previous report of the Secretary-General (A/64/287) in the implementation of the four strategic objectives identified in the United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy 2006-2010. In recognition of the evolving mine action landscape, the report outlines a series of recommendations, including enhanced cooperation among United Nations mine action partners in the area of ammunition stockpile management, to address the increased threats posed by improvised explosive devices and the vast circulation of illicit small arms and light weapons.

II. Update on international instruments related to mine action

5. The United Nations continued to assist Member States in the development and implementation of international instruments aimed at protecting civilians from the scourge of landmines and explosive remnants of war. To date, 156 countries have ratified or acceded to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention since it opened for signature in 1997. Eighty-six States parties have completed their stockpile destruction obligations, collectively destroying over 45 million stockpiled anti-personnel mines. In 2009 and 2010, Albania, Greece, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Tunisia and Zambia declared that they had completed their clearance obligations. Ten States parties which were unable to clear and destroy their anti-personnel mines within the 10-year deadline requested extensions of the deadline.

6. The Second Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction took place in Cartagena, Colombia, from 30 November to 4 December 2009. The Conference, entitled "The Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World", reviewed progress made and focused on the remaining challenges for States parties and other partners in achieving full compliance with the Convention. The Conference adopted the Cartagena Declaration ("A shared commitment for a mine-free world") and the Cartagena Action Plan 2010-2014, which provide guidance and a framework for the implementation and universalization of the Convention in the coming years.

7. The Tenth Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, held in Geneva from 29 November to 3 December 2010, reviewed the intersessional work programme for 2011 and established a new Standing Committee on Resources, Cooperation and Assistance. The meeting also endorsed the report of the special task force set up at the Second Review Conference to evaluate the

Implementation Support Unit at the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (ISU), adopting changes that would increase the independence and performance of the Unit under the direct guidance of States parties. States parties also welcomed the Geneva progress report on the status and operation of the Convention since the Second Review Conference.

8. Since it opened for signature in December 2008, 109 countries have signed or acceded to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, including 38 countries that have used, produced, exported or stockpiled cluster munitions. Following the deposit of the thirtieth instrument of ratification on 16 February 2010, the Convention entered into force on 1 August 2010. As at 8 July 2011, the Convention had been ratified, accepted or acceded to by 59 countries.

9. Nine States parties (Austria, Belgium, Ecuador, Hungary, Montenegro, Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova and Spain) and two signatories (Colombia and the Czech Republic) have completed destruction of their stockpiles of cluster munitions. In 2010, two signatories (Afghanistan and Angola) reported that their stocks of cluster munitions had been destroyed as part of broader weapons disposal programmes. All States parties with stockpiles of such weapons indicated that they have either begun their physical destruction or are in the process of doing so, and 10 countries have enacted national legislation to implement the Convention.

10. The First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions was held in Vientiane from 9 to 12 November 2010. The fact that Albania is serving as President of the Tenth Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, coupled with the Presidency of the Lao People's Democratic Republic for the First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, reflects a promising trend towards increased ownership by affected States over the humanitarian disarmament conventions. Following the current presidencies, Lebanon will serve as President of the Second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in September 2011, and Cambodia will serve as President of the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in November 2011.

11. The Vientiane Declaration and Vientiane Action Plan adopted at the First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions will guide the implementation of the Convention. States parties adopted national reporting formats for their reports under article 7 of the Convention regarding transparency measures. A work programme for 2011 was approved, including provisions for an intersessional meeting in 2011 to discuss the future architecture and implementation framework of the Convention. The Office for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided substantive and logistical support to the Lao People's Democratic Republic in advance of the First Meeting. At the meeting, UNDP was appointed Executive Coordinator, under the Lao Presidency, with responsibility for the preparations for the Second Meeting of States Parties, including the organization of an intersessional meeting in Geneva from 27 to 30 June 2011, in cooperation with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

12. Within the context of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, commonly known as the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, the group of governmental experts continued negotiations on a protocol on cluster munitions. The United Nations Mine Action

Team actively engaged with delegations and provided technical inputs to their deliberations. The United Nations Mine Action Team also provided technical advice to the 2010 intersessional expert meetings of States parties to amended Protocol II on mines, booby traps and other devices, and Protocol V on explosive remnants of war of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, which focused, respectively, on improvised explosive devices and the implementation of Protocol V, including its plan of action on victim assistance.

13. Since my last report, 102 States have ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and 62 have adopted the Optional Protocol to the Convention. The United Nations Mine Action Team continued to encourage Member States to accede to the Convention, stressing its relevance in addressing the rights and needs of victims of mines and explosive remnants of war. At the programme level, opportunities were identified to integrate assistance to mine and explosive remnants of war victims into broader public health and support frameworks.

III. Mine action response within the United Nations and outside

14. The mine action landscape continued to evolve over the past two years. Further progress was made towards meeting the strategic objectives set out in the United Nations Mine Action Strategy 2006-2010, and some national mine action programmes reached completion. A case in point is Albania, which, having finished demining in 2009, is now working to transform its mine action programme to support the Government's demilitarization programme, which includes ammunition stockpile management and the disposal of obsolete and degraded ammunition. A number of other countries also have begun to explore potential synergies between mine action and other sectors, recognizing that the tools and expertise developed to respond to the threat of landmines may be effective in addressing other threats, such as those posed by degraded and poorly managed ammunition stockpiles and improvised explosive devices.

15. Nevertheless, several countries, including Afghanistan, Cambodia and the Sudan, remain severely affected by landmines. It is also worrisome that in some places, for example Colombia, new mines are being laid while existing landmines are being removed. The use of anti-personnel mines by non-State actors was also confirmed in Afghanistan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Myanmar, Pakistan, Somalia, the Sudan and Yemen. In response to the threat posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war, the United Nations continued to implement various mine action programmes in support of the efforts of national authorities. The support of the United Nations has been critical to the provision and coordination of the mine action response during and in the immediate aftermath of conflict, notably in Pakistan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Côte d'Ivoire, as well as to the development of capacities and mechanisms to ensure that the mine action response is provided in the most effective way.

16. In its resolution 64/84, "Assistance in mine action", the General Assembly identified "the need for a comprehensive and independent evaluation of the scope, organization, effectiveness and approach of the work of the United Nations in mine action". After extensive consultations, the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action agreed that the Joint Inspection Unit would undertake the evaluation.

The United Nations Mine Action Team supported the evaluation of the Joint Inspection Unit, including the allocation of funding for it from the Voluntary Trust Fund.

A. Integrating mine action in the United Nations system

17. During the reporting period, increased focus was placed on integrating mine action within United Nations peacekeeping, humanitarian and development efforts. Mine action is a growing component of peacekeeping and special political missions, based on explicit reference to mine action in mission mandates or through contributions to the protection of civilians and the safe conduct of other mandated activities. The United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT, closed on 31 December 2010), the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS, closed on 9 July 2011), the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS, established on 9 July 2011) and the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) (UNSOA) all had mine action components.

18. Mine action and problems related to explosive remnants of war, stockpile management and improvised explosive devices have been referenced in reports to the Security Council, in particular those addressing the situation in countries where peacekeeping operations or special political missions are or have been deployed. These include my reports on Afghanistan, the Central African Republic and Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Lebanon, Liberia, Nepal, Somalia, the Sudan (including Darfur), the Syrian Arab Republic and Western Sahara. Elements on mine action were also included in a number of thematic reports, including reports on women and peace and security; children and armed conflict; the protection of civilians in armed conflict; and peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict. In my report on children in armed conflict (S/2010/181), I highlighted the fact that, during the reporting period, more than 1,000 children were confirmed to have been killed or injured in conflict-related violence, victims, inter alia, of mines, unexploded ordnance and improvised explosive devices. In response to the threat posed to children by such weapons, in 2010, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) integrated mine and explosive remnants of war risk education and advocacy against the use of landmines and other indiscriminate weapons into its "Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies", a framework that guides the UNICEF response to emergency situations.

19. Continued efforts were made to include mine action in United Nations humanitarian and development plans as well as consolidated appeals processes. Mine action projects were included in the humanitarian appeals for Afghanistan, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gaza, Somalia and the Sudan. Mine action was further included in the humanitarian response to the crisis in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, with a mine action sub-cluster established under the protection cluster and five mine action projects included in the revised flash appeal launched by the Emergency Relief Coordinator in May 2011. The United Nations and

bilateral, multilateral and civil society development agencies also began to integrate mine action into their programmes, as a sector of development in itself and as a means of advancing work in more traditional development sectors.

20. In order to further promote gender equality in mine action, the United Nations revised the "Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes" through the sharing of good practices and lessons learned from field programmes. The revised guidelines identify measures to be implemented in mine action programmes in order to balance the participation of women and men as beneficiaries, practitioners and decision makers and to ensure that mine action projects have an equally proportionate impact on women and girls, boys and men.

B. Coordination and partnerships

21. United Nations departments, offices, programmes, funds and agencies involved in mine action continued to coordinate their activities through the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, chaired by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, in accordance with "Mine Action and Effective Coordination: The United Nations Inter-Agency Policy".

22. Following a review of existing mechanisms for the coordination of mine action, the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action agreed in October 2010 that the mine action area of responsibility within the global protection cluster should be fully activated in order to: align the coordination of mine action with the accepted cluster approach throughout the United Nations system; facilitate coordination with a broader group of stakeholders (for example, non-governmental organizations); and ensure a direct link with United Nations country teams. In coordination with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which leads the Global Protection Cluster, the United Nations Mine Action Service drafted terms of reference for the mine action area of responsibility that were adopted by the membership, which includes the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and other partners.

23. In order to promote coordination with non-governmental organizations and other implementing partners, the United Nations Mine Action Service chaired meetings of the Committee on Mine Action on the margins of the thirteenth and fourteenth International Meetings of National Mine Action Programme Directors and United Nations Advisers, held in Geneva in March 2010 and 2011 to discuss issues of common concern. The group also met during the intersessional meetings on the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, held in Geneva in June 2011.

24. In recognition of the complementarity between mine action and work to curb the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons, efforts have been made to ensure coherence and synergies among the two processes within the United Nations. Examples of these include the participation of members of the United Nations Mine Action Team in the Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA) mechanism, chaired by the Office for Disarmament Affairs, and the provision of technical expertise by the United Nations Mine Action Team to the development of the International Small Arms Control Standards, for which the International Mine Action Standards served as a model.

25. The Office for Disarmament Affairs, together with the United Nations Mine Action Service, continued to develop the international ammunition technical guidelines, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 64/51, in which the Assembly encouraged Member States to contribute to the development of technical guidelines to assist countries, on a voluntary basis, to improve their national stockpile management capacity, prevent the growth of surpluses and address wider risk mitigation. The United Nations delivered a well-received presentation on the guidelines at the second General Assembly of the Latin American Association of Peacekeeping Operations Training Centres, held in Rio de Janeiro in August 2010. I welcome the continued development of the guidelines by the Office for Disarmament Affairs, in partnership with the United Nations Mine Action Service, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and others, which is critical to avoid explosive remnants of war contamination created by unintended explosions.

26. During the reporting period, I called on the Department of Safety and Security to coordinate the development of a comprehensive policy on the United Nations approach to improvised explosive devices that are part of active hostilities and that threaten personnel and facilities of the Organization. In view of the similarities between the threat of landmines and that of improvised explosive devices, I recommended that the experiences of the members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action be taken into account in the development of the aforementioned policy, which is expected to be presented to the Steering Group of the Inter-Agency Security Management Network in late 2011.

C. Servicing the mine action community

27. In 2009, in recognition of the critical role that can be played by standing capacities in the planning and start-up of missions, the United Nations Mine Action Service established its Standing Mine Action Capacity mechanism. Since its establishment, the mechanism has been deployed to provide immediate response to emergency situations, reinforce existing programmes and conduct needs assessments and programme evaluations. Most recently, in March 2011, the United Nations Mine Action Service deployed its personnel assigned to the mechanism to Cairo to coordinate the mine action response to the crisis in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and to establish the mine action area of responsibility under the protection cluster.

28. The post-electoral crisis in Côte d'Ivoire left a trail of explosive remnants of war, which posed a direct threat to human security and prevented the Government and humanitarian and development actors from safely pursuing reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts. In response to that threat, on 14 April 2011, the United Nations Mine Action Service deployed a technical expert to Côte d'Ivoire to assess the scope and nature of contamination in Abidjan and to identify the requirements for clearance of priority hazardous areas in support of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and other stakeholders, including national authorities. In future, the discovery of ammunition stockpiles and arms caches, in Abidjan and beyond, will require the implementation of ammunition and weapons management projects in support of national security institutions. In this connection, the Mine Action Service has begun to assist UNOCI to address ammunitions and weapons management in support of its disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and its security sector reform efforts.

29. At the request of my Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS), the United Nations Mine Action Service conducted technical assessment missions to Guinea-Bissau from 24 to 28 May 2010 and from 13 to 19 February 2011. The 2010 mission undertook a preliminary assessment of existing ammunition storage, management and destruction capacities to assist Guinea-Bissau in addressing its surplus ammunition stockpile. The follow-on mission focused on reducing the immediate hazard and laying the foundations for a longer-term ammunition management regime, in accordance with the international ammunition technical guidelines currently under development.

30. The United Nations Mine Action Service, in conjunction with the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, held its seventh and eighth annual rapid response exercises in Sweden in June 2010 and 2011. As in previous years, the exercises focused on establishing a mine action coordination centre in an emergency environment. The annual exercise is included in the workplan of the global protection cluster, and a number of member agencies send staff to the exercise to enhance future responses.

31. The development and maintenance of International Mine Action Standards continued to be an essential element of United Nations support to the mine action community. The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining assists the United Nations Mine Action Service to manage the annual review process, in order to ensure that the Mine Action Standards maintain their relevance. Amendments have been made to all of the Mine Action Standards, including recognition of issues related to cluster munitions. In addition, in 2010, the International Mine Action Standards Review Board approved a new standard, developed by UNICEF, on mines and explosive remnants of war risk education, which replaced seven existing standards on mine risk education.

32. As noted above, the thirteenth and fourteenth International Meetings of National Mine Action Programme Directors and United Nations Advisers were held in Geneva in March 2010 and 2011. Organized by the United Nations Mine Action Team in partnership with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, the annual meetings provide an opportunity for up to 300 mine action practitioners to assess progress achieved and future challenges in the sector. It is encouraging that national directors took an increased role in chairing and facilitating the meetings.

33. From 6 to 8 September 2010, the United Nations Mine Action Service, in coordination with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, hosted the third mine action technology workshop in Geneva entitled "Merging mine action technology and methodology". This biannual event brings together mine action practitioners, equipment manufacturers and research and development organizations to review current technology and future needs. The workshop focused on the use of satellite and aerial imagery along with remote analysis and sensing technology to identify mined areas.

34. During the reporting period, UNDP continued to promote South-South cooperation through its Mine Action Exchange Programme, which facilitates cooperation and peer review among affected countries and the dissemination of good practices. In 2010, initiatives undertaken under the programme included

exchanges of information and experience among the mine action programmes of Angola, Cambodia and Mozambique.

D. Resource mobilization/allocation

35. According to the Landmine and Cluster Munitions Monitor (an initiative of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines), around $1 billion was generated in support of mine action efforts between 2009 and 2011, confirming that funding levels remained stable in spite of the global financial crisis. The vast majority of funds were directed to a relatively small number of States and territories, however, and primarily allocated to mine clearance, which is but one of the five pillars of mine action (also including mine risk education, victim assistance, stockpile destruction and advocacy).

36. From 1 August 2009 to 8 July 2011, contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action totalled $172 million, benefiting 21 affected States and territories. In addition, peacekeeping assessed funds for mine action totalled over $161 million for the period from 1 July 2009 through 30 June 2011. Troop-contributing countries also provided in-kind mine action capacity in direct support of mission mandates.

37. Between 2009 and 2010, donor funding through the UNDP Thematic Trust Fund for Crisis Prevention and Recovery and UNDP country offices totalling $80 million supported 28 national mine action programmes. During the same period, over $25 million was provided to UNICEF for its mine action support to over 10 countries and territories.

38. The United Nations Mine Action Team continued to assist the Mine Action Support Group, a forum of donors providing political and financial support to mine action activities. Under the chairmanship of the United States of America, the Support Group held its annual meeting in New York on 14 October 2010, with 37 members in attendance. For the first time, participants included representatives from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, reflecting the increasing pool of donors with an interest in mine action. The Group also met in Geneva on 10 May 2011 to address the mine action requirements for the crisis in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, which I welcome as a positive development for donor coordination in the area of mine action.

39. On 30 November 2009, the United Nations organized the launch of the *Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2010* in Cartagena, to coincide with the Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World. An annual publication, the portfolio provides an overview of how affected countries plan to address problems posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war, in partnership with the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and other actors at the local, national and international levels. In 2010, the United Nations organized a review of the *Portfolio of Mine Action Projects* process. Based on the outcome of the review process, a new methodology and templates are being developed, aimed at increasing the use of the portfolio as a reference by mine action donors in making decisions about allocation of resources. The *Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2011*, which includes 238 projects covering all five pillars of mine action, was launched online on 18 March 2011.

IV. Implementation of the United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy for 2006-2010

40. In order to measure the implementation of the United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy 2006-2010, the United Nations Mine Action Team distributed a survey to 49 mine action programmes that had received its support. Preliminary results underscored the decreasing rate of civilian deaths and injuries, the positive correlation between mine action and enhanced humanitarian and development responses, the integration of mine action into national development and reconstruction plans and the establishment of national mine action authorities. By identifying successes and gaps, the survey results will inform the strategic objectives of the United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy 2011-2015. A list of progress and achievements during the reporting period is presented below.

A. Strategic objective 1: Reduction of death and injury by at least 50 per cent

41. Statistics from several countries reflect a noticeable reduction of death and injury due to landmines and other explosive remnants of war. In 2010, Afghanistan averaged 33 casualties per month (26 per cent from landmines and 74 per cent from unexploded ordnance), representing a 29 per cent decrease from 2009. Of the victims, 16 per cent were female, and 65 per cent were children, with boys between the ages of 7 to 14 accounting for 55 per cent of all victims under the age of 18. Similarly in Chad, victim surveillance reported a reduction in reported casualties from 51 in 2009 to 17 in 2010.

42. In Gaza, the United Nations Mine Action Team provided life-saving interventions in the aftermath of "Operation cast lead", creating a safer environment for the civilian population and humanitarian delivery. The mine action programme conducted risk assessments of 2,187 sites, including housing sites, which were estimated to benefit 80,132 persons, and provided risk education to 5,426 individuals. Civilian casualties fell from 39 in 2009 to 16 in 2010, a 41 per cent decrease.

43. In Nepal, United Nations support to the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction in developing and implementing a national mine action strategy contributed to a further decrease in casualties. Available data for 2010 revealed 43 victims of mines and explosive remnants of war, representing a 39 per cent decrease over 2009. The data indicated that the majority of victims were under 18 years of age and that they were injured by victim-activated improvised explosive devices.

44. In the Somaliland and Puntland regions of Somalia, enhanced coordination and clearance capacity contributed to reducing civilian casualties and enabling development activities. In south central Somalia, increased monitoring of accidents resulted in significant improvements in prioritization and targeting for mine action implementers. Risk education was prioritized in central Somalia, which helped prevent death and injury among migrants escaping clashes in the south of the country. Mogadishu and the Afgoye corridor were especially targeted owing to high levels of contamination and casualty rates in these densely populated areas. The United Nations Mine Action Service provided risk education to 361,843 Somalis in central Somalia, the Afgoye corridor and Mogadishu and established a local

identification and disposal capacity in three of the most densely populated and mine-affected regions in the south.

45. In a notable development, the United Nations Mine Action Service, as part of UNSOA, began to work with AMISOM to increase the awareness of mines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices among the troops and to improve their ability to undertake explosive ordnance disposal operations safely and efficiently. In October 2009, with support from the United Nations Mine Action Service, AMISOM began the disposal of explosive remnants of war in Mogadishu. By April 2011, it had destroyed 5,591 mines, explosive remnants of war and items of small arms ammunitions. Systematic baseline surveys were conducted for the first time in districts of Mogadishu, giving a view of the pervasiveness of contamination in areas accessible to humanitarian assistance. Nevertheless, new mine use has been reported in several areas where armed opposition groups have reportedly mined key roads and strategic arteries. It must noted that eight Somali regions remain under the control of armed groups that have impeded clearance activities.

46. In Colombia, where non-State armed groups continue to use landmines and improvised explosive devices, the number of victims remains very high, with approximately two casualties reported daily. Nevertheless, the overall number of incidents has decreased in recent years, with 512 victims, 30 per cent of whom were civilian, reported in 2010, compared to 741 in 2009.

47. In the Sudan, the number of victims of landmines and explosive remnants of war increased by 35 per cent in 2010, although this may be partly explained by increased access to areas previously closed to civilians due to security concerns. In 2010, under the coordination of the United Nations Mine Action Office, a grouping of United Nations entities led by the United Nations Mine Action Service, with UNICEF as lead agency on risk education, the mine action community in the Sudan delivered community-based risk education to 330,015 people, with special focus on internally displaced persons and returnees.

48. Mines and unexploded ordnance continued to pose a serious threat to people in the conflict-affected governorates of Yemen, in particular children, who tend to be concentrated in high-risk areas or to mistake mines and unexploded ordnance for toys. In 2010, over 34 children died from mines and explosive remnants of war and 24 sustained serious injuries. Lack of access for mine clearance units was the main impediment to reducing risk in the affected areas. Following the signing of the ceasefire agreement between the Government and the Al-Houthi armed group in February 2010, UNICEF, in coordination with the Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre and UNDP, initiated risk education activities, including three campaigns targeting over 28,000 people, training-of-trainers courses and the distribution of risk education material.

B. Strategic objective 2: Mitigate the risk to community livelihoods and expand freedom of movement for at least 80 per cent of the most seriously affected communities

49. Significant strides were made towards improving the livelihoods of those who face the socio-economic impact and restriction of movement because of landmines

and explosive remnants of war. In Cambodia, UNDP supported the work of the Cambodian Mine Action Centre in coordinating the restoration of 14 million square metres of contaminated land, destroying, in the process, 14,000 anti-personnel mines, 403 anti-tank mines and over 80,000 items of unexploded ordnance. Over 80,000 people are expected to have benefited from demining activities by gaining access to agricultural land, sources of irrigation, roads, health centres and other infrastructure. Nearly 2,000 students now have access to schools in areas that were demined.

50. In eastern Chad, the clearance of 2,500 kilometres of road, including 4,700,000 square metres of war-torn land and 212 dangerous areas, and the destruction of 21,000 explosive remnants of war and items of ammunition resulted in a reduced risk to host communities, refugees and internally displaced persons. Since, agricultural land represented 78 per cent of the land cleared, this action improved the livelihoods of thousands of people.

51. In Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Mine Action Office, with support from UNDP, continued to conduct mine clearance and risk education, further reducing the risks posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war. During the reporting period, 10,178,977 square metres of land were released for agricultural use and other economic activities, and risk education was provided to 94,815 community members.

52. Strides towards mitigating the risk to community livelihoods and expanding freedom of movement were also made in Iraq, with support from UNDP, increasing access to agriculture and schools. UNDP also continued to support clearance activities in Mozambique, where 136 areas previously blocked to economic development were cleared in 2010.

53. In the Sudan, significant progress was made to open roads, 96 per cent of which are now deemed safe. The opening of roads improved freedom of movement and facilitated the return of internally displaced persons and refugees as well as the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Clearance operations have also resulted in the use of land for agricultural purposes and other development and income-generating activities.

54. In Western Sahara, increased resources have produced an improved programme performance, namely, the destruction of over 7,600 explosive remnants of war east of the berm and the creation of a significant reduction in the overall threat level in the highly contaminated areas of Mehaires and Tifariti. With priority being given to environmental conditions, the scarcity of resources and the need of nomads to access grazing land, the programme has had a positive impact on the local population, facilitating their access to wadis and water sources and promoting food security. Nevertheless, despite the above achievements, casualty rates within Western Sahara reportedly increased in 2010, highlighting the urgent need for risk education.

55. Elsewhere, progress has been hindered by a number of factors, including security concerns, gender issues and political considerations. For example, in Afghanistan, although clearance of over 189 square kilometres of land has led to improved access to roads and pasture lands, contamination levels remain high, with 6,545 known minefields, covering 627 square kilometres of land and impacting the lives and livelihoods of 2,056 communities, still to be cleared. A shift to

community-based demining, whereby Afghan demining experts train and mentor local community members to conduct clearance, has proved to be an effective way of operating in highly insecure parts of the country, which has also contributed to enhanced stability. Since my last report, over 1.7 million Afghans have received risk education, including 250,000 women and almost 500,000 girls. This figure is all the more remarkable since often times women cannot attend public risk education sessions, and female trainers who can reach women in their homes remain few. To address this challenge, a radio campaign is being launched, highlighting the importance of allowing girls to attend risk education sessions.

56. In 2010, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, verification and clearance took place on 7,637 kilometres of roads and 428,000 square metres of land, mainly in the eastern part of the country, and risk education was provided to 568,600 individuals. However, ongoing insecurity, adverse weather and reduced financial resources negatively impacted mine action operations. In addition, violence involving local militias resulted in new contamination around Mbandaka and Gemena airports in Equateur province. The presence or perception of landmines and explosive remnants of war continued to hinder livelihoods, free movement, access to basic services and markets and the rehabilitation of infrastructure. The danger posed by large, unmanaged stockpiles of ammunition in the country has already been highlighted in the final report of the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2008/773). In response, the United Nations Mine Action Service within MONUSCO destroyed ammunition stocks, including over 50,000 small arms ammunition near Goma, in March 2010. To complement ongoing efforts by implementing partners, in February 2011, the United Nations Mine Action Service recruited a technical officer specialized in ammunition to work with the Congolese Armed Forces on eliminating the hazard posed by obsolete, degraded and poorly managed stocks.

C. Strategic objective 3: Integration of mine action needs into national development and reconstruction plans and budgets in at least 15 countries

57. During the reporting period, the United Nations worked with national counterparts to promote the integration of mine action into national development and reconstruction plans. The Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan, managed by the United Nations Mine Action Service at the request of the Government, worked with a range of ministries to ensure the integration of mine action into wider development plans. The Centre also worked to ensure that mine action operations are in line with Government objectives, as outlined in the Afghanistan Compact and the Afghan National Development Strategy.

58. With support from UNDP, the National Mine Action Coordination Centre of Guinea-Bissau highlighted the need for integration of mine action into the national development strategy. A national mine action plan has been developed, in cooperation with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

59. Until the peacekeeping operation closed on 31 December 2010, the United Nations Mine Action Service within MINURCAT supported the development of the Chadian national mine action strategy and action plan, which is based on the obligations of the Government of Chad under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban

Convention and the socio-economic and humanitarian needs of communities. UNDP assisted the national mine action authorities in revising the national mine action plan to take account of the results of an ongoing technical survey aimed at clarifying the extent of contamination.

60. In Iraq, the mine action strategy for 2010-2012 was approved and launched in early 2010, with support from UNDP. Iraq also has a national mine action plan that integrates mine action needs into national and local reconstruction and development plans.

61. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the unexploded ordnance sector is governed by a national strategic document that underlines the "strong correlation between poverty and food insecurity on the one hand, and the presence of unexploded ordnance, on the other". Based on that strategy, the Lao National Regulatory Authority, with support from UNDP, worked to ensure that the national socio-economic development plan for 2011-2015 refers to unexploded ordnance as a cross-cutting issue. In 2010, the Government introduced a ninth Millennium Goal — to reduce the impact of explosive remnants of war on development. In addition, a post-clearance impact assessment, facilitated by the Regulatory Authority, was completed in 2010 to obtain a better understanding of how clearance contributes to the Government's poverty reduction efforts.

62. In Mozambique, the national mine action plan (2008-2014) supports the national poverty reduction plan as a cross-cutting issue impacting development sectors. The challenge, however, is to ensure that all relevant ministries and local authorities take account of mine action issues in the development and implementation of their respective development plans. In Sri Lanka, integration with development plans takes place at the district level, where UNDP and UNICEF support the development of annual district mine action plans, specifying clearance, risk education and victim assistance priority activities, based on the national mine action strategy and in line with district development plans. More efforts are still required to ensure the integration of mine action needs into national development and reconstruction plans.

63. For the first time in 2010, the Somaliland Mine Action Centre in Somalia participated in the development of the Somaliland regional development plan. This and ongoing advocacy efforts with local authorities resulted in a financial contribution of $44,000 by the Government to the Centre in 2011. The Centre has also undertaken liaison with the regional administration to ensure the integration of mine action requirements in all development plans. In collaboration with UNDP and the United Nations Mine Action Service, mine action was included in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for the Sudan for the period from 2009 to 2012 and the Sudan five-year strategy for the period from 2007 to 2012.

D. Strategic objective 4: Assist the development of national institutions to manage the landmine/explosive remnants of war threat, and at the same time prepare for residual capacity in at least 15 countries

64. During the reporting period, the United Nations worked with national mine action authorities in various countries to build local capacity and ensure national

ownership over mine action strategies and priorities. In Afghanistan, the Coordination Centre continued to work with the Department of Mine Clearance, in anticipation of the transfer of responsibility for planning and coordination of mine action activities from the former to the latter in 2013. As regards victim assistance, the Centre worked with the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and the Disabled and the Ministry of Education to ensure the rights and needs of persons with disabilities, including landmine survivors, are addressed and embedded into national structures.

65. UNDP provided further capacity development support to the Cambodian Mine Action Authority, including assistance in conducting a 2009 capacity assessment aimed at enhancing the Authority's ability to deliver against its mandate. Similarly in Chad, following the closure of MINURCAT at the end of 2010, the United Nations Mine Action Service continued to assist the national demining centre and its regional centre in Abeche in developing residual capacity, including through the training of 25 staff on the International Mine Action Standards.

66. In Colombia, following a decision enshrined in a national mine action bill adopted in December 2010 to allow civilian demining organizations to operate in the country, the Presidential programme for integrated mine action requested technical assistance from the United Nations Mine Action Service to develop an operational coordination system for civilian mine clearance that complements the ongoing assistance being provided by UNICEF and UNDP. The Mine Action Service supported the development of national guidelines and technical standards for mine clearance operations, as well as procedures for accreditation, quality assurance and information management.

67. Security Council resolution 1925 (2010), which established MONUSCO, mandated the Mission, inter alia, to "assist the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in enhancing its demining capacity". The United Nations Mine Action Service within MONUSCO supported the drafting and adoption of a national mine action law, endorsed by the National Assembly on 15 October 2010, which established a national mine action centre and stipulated the inclusion of provisions for mine action within the national budget. In Ethiopia, UNDP provided technical advice to the national authority in the development of a mine action plan, from July 2010 to December 2011, and supported the development of national mine action standards in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards.

68. The United Nations Mine Action Team continued to work closely with the Nepal Army Mine Action Coordination Centre to develop local capacity and meet its clearance obligations under the 2006 Comprehensive Peace Agreement. In addition, the United Nations Mine Action Team continued to support the newly established mine action section within the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, including in developing and implementing a national mine action strategy and an annual workplan. In December 2010, UNICEF started to develop the section's mine risk education coordination capacity, with a view to starting the handover of responsibilities by December 2011. UNICEF also supported the prevention capacity of key governmental bodies, including the Department of Education, the Nepal Police and the Armed Police Force, which now have the ability to deliver risk education in any of the 25 most affected districts. As a clear sign of the increased role of the national authorities in the coordination and implementation of mine action activities, in August 2010, the national mine action section began to lead the

Mine Action Joint Working Group, which it previously co-chaired with the United Nations Mine Action Team.

69. In 2010, the United Nations Mine Action Service in Somalia supported the establishment of an explosive ordnance disposal capacity within the Transitional Federal Government that has the potential to expand into all 10 regions in south central Somalia. Similar capacities established in Somaliland and Puntland provide an effective call-out service within the respective regions. These services are able to remove and destroy explosive remnants of war with limited support.

70. In Sri Lanka, a national mine action centre was formally established in 2010 to manage mine action activities. UNDP has been providing support to the centre through its regional mine action offices in Jaffna and Vavuniya, in order to promote implementation of Government mine action policies and activities, while UNICEF supports the national mine risk education and victim assistance efforts.

71. The United Nations also continued to support the further development of the National Mine Action Centre in Khartoum and the South Sudan Demining Authority. Since early 2010, the National Mine Action Centre has become increasingly proactive in all pillars of mine action. Since 2009, the South Sudan Demining Authority has increased joint operations with the United Nations Mine Action Office in the Sudan in field quality assurance and accreditation for clearance and mine risk education activities. In early 2011, the South Sudan Demining Authority also began to host monthly and quarterly mine action coordination meetings, with support from the United Nations Mine Action Service.

72. In Tajikistan, UNDP supported the development of a strategic plan for 2011-2015, ensuring a wide consultative approach, as well as the adoption of national mine action standards. UNDP also supported the development of a national mine action strategy in Thailand, which was submitted by the Thai Mine Action Centre for the approval of the Government in 2010.

V. Observations and recommendations

73. As noted above, mine action has an impact in all five major areas of the work of the United Nations. With regard to international law, the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention provided an opportunity for the United Nations, States parties and relevant partners to take stock of progress made towards a mine-free world and how best to address remaining challenges to the full implementation of the Convention. I welcome the adoption, at the Second Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention, of the Cartagena Action Plan 2010-2014 and the Cartagena Declaration, and look forward to their implementation in the coming years. Another major development in this area was the entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions on 1 August 2010 and the subsequent First Meeting of States Parties in Vientiane in November 2010, an important step towards eliminating those weapons. I encourage all Member States which have not yet done so to accede to the Convention, and to enact the national legislation to implement it effectively.

74. As regards the impact of mine action in the other four areas of the Organization's work, increased efforts at integrating mine action into United Nations peacekeeping operations as well as humanitarian and development

programmes reflect an increased awareness that mine action is critical to bringing about long-term peace and security, the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance, sustainable development and respect for human rights. A prime example is the visit of the Acting Director of the United Nations Mine Action Service to Western Sahara in July 2011, at the request of my Personal Envoy, to further the constructive role of mine action in the ongoing talks.

75. In order to promote the positive impact of mine action, coordination and rapid response mechanisms have been enhanced. The area of responsibility within the global protection cluster has been fully activated, facilitating the coordination of mine action in response to the crisis in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in 2011. Member States also strengthened their coordination of mine action within the framework of the Mine Action Support Group, supported by the United Nations Mine Action Service, which now includes a wider membership and meets to address ad hoc crises. More can still be done to ensure that the United Nations provides the most effective response to the threat to peace and security, economic development and human rights posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war. In this regard, I welcome the ongoing evaluation of United Nations work in mine action by the Joint Inspection Unit and look forward to the report and its recommendations, which I trust will further strengthen our work in this area.

76. As noted above, the landscape in which the United Nations operates has evolved, with the threat posed by improvised explosive devices, obsolete, degraded and poorly managed ammunition stockpiles and the circulation of illicit small arms and light weapons on the rise even as the threat of landmines and explosive remnants of war diminishes. I have encouraged continued cooperation among United Nations partners in the development of policies and instruments to respond to the aforementioned security threats, including at the country-level, in recognition of the added value of their respective contributions. In particular, I have directed the United Nations Mine Action Service to continue to work with other relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to address such issues, in view of the expertise and capacity that it has developed since its establishment in 1997.

77. Significant strides have been made in the field of mine action, including the establishment of concrete international norms and the application of proven solutions, however, this work is far from completed. It is essential not to overlook the continued threat posed by landmines. I am especially concerned by the continued landmine use reported in Afghanistan, Colombia, Myanmar, Pakistan and Yemen, and by the new mine usage reported in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Somalia and the Sudan in 2011, which show that gains made towards the elimination of landmines can easily be eroded. Most recently, credible reports indicate that new landmines have been laid in Southern Kordofan state in the Sudan and the contested Abyei area, where the United Nations is currently deploying a new peacekeeping mission, the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). With the liquidation of UNMIS, the United Nations may be less able to address the threat of landmines in Southern Kordofan.

78. Given the persistent threat posed by landmines, further efforts are required before mine action can be removed from the international community's agenda. The United Nations will continue to assist the development and implementation of mine action programmes, in cooperation with national authorities and international partners. As noted above, a new United Nations Inter-Agency Mine Action Strategy

for 2011-2015 is being developed, with refined objectives to better address outstanding challenges. In reaffirming the United Nations commitment to mine action, I call upon the international community to provide continued political and financial support for the elimination of landmines and explosive remnants of war. The continued threat posed by these weapons should not be underestimated, lest we pay a high price in terms of human lives, as well as undermine our collective efforts at promoting long-term peace and security, sustainable development and human rights.

79. In closing, I pay tribute to all the deminers who have lost their lives in the line of duty, and condemn in the strongest terms all attacks against mine action personnel. Such attacks must be seen as attacks on the fundamental principles of peace, security and humanitarian assistance that lie at the very core of the work of the United Nations. In view of the highly insecure environments in which mine action personnel operate, I commend them for their continued dedication and commitment to providing life-saving services to vulnerable communities, regardless of political, religious, ethnic or geographical considerations.

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Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 65/216, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to seek further the views of Member States and relevant agencies of the United Nations system on the issue of globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights and to submit a substantive report on the subject to the Assembly at its sixty-sixth session. The report summarizes views expressed in replies received from the Governments of Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Cuba, Kuwait, Panama, Peru, Senegal and Serbia, as well as from the World Trade Organization, and provides recommendations on ways to address the impact of globalization on the full enjoyment of all human rights.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 65/216, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights (A/65/171), and requested the Secretary-General to seek further the views of Member States and relevant agencies of the United Nations system and to submit to the Assembly at its sixty-sixth session a substantive report on this subject based on these views, including recommendations on ways to address the impact of globalization on the full enjoyment of all human rights.

2. Pursuant to that request, on 28 April 2011, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights sent a request for views on this issue. As at 15 July 2011, the Office had received responses from the Governments of Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Cuba, Kuwait and Serbia and from the World Trade Organization. The present report also contains summaries of responses that were received from the Governments of Panama, Peru and Senegal in 2010 after the submission deadline and therefore could not be included in the aforementioned report.

II. Replies received from Governments

Azerbaijan

3. The Government of Azerbaijan provided a list of State programmes dealing with various issues, such as regional development; energy, including from alternative and renewable sources; employment, including migration, demography and population development; social protection and its extension to the elderly; health; education; the environment; refugees and internally displaced persons, including improving their living standards and increasing their employment opportunities; human trafficking and violence; youth policy; and good governance, increasing transparency and fighting corruption.

Bulgaria

4. The Government of Bulgaria stated that it was of the view that only a stable economic and financial framework could encourage the democratic development of societies and full respect for all human rights. The existence of an open, predictable, rule-based, equitable and non-discriminatory multilateral trade and financial system would foster the democratic and transparent participation of the developing countries. Bulgaria expressed its commitment to the achievement of an equitably and democratically functioning transparent international economic system, promoting the ideas of democracy and freedom. Bulgaria stated that it worked actively for the attainment of that goal by supporting basic European principles and values, such as liberty, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights. It participated in the work of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations system, both of which had the objective of establishing an equitable, open and democratic reallocation system, which, in turn, would lead to the achievement of democratic governance and ensure human and civil rights worldwide.

Cuba

5. The Government of Cuba stated that it attached great importance to the central role that the United Nations system should play as a universal and more representative forum in redefining the bases of the current process of globalization such that its potential benefits could reach all the peoples of the world. It referred to growing links of interdependence, explained by the fact that events taking place in one part of the world had consequences for the lives of millions of people in other parts. In this context, Cuba stated that under the principle of shared responsibility and within the multilateral framework, all peoples should enjoy the intrinsic right to participate in the governance and administration of those processes that had a global impact.

6. Cuba referred to the diminishing role and economic and financial capacity of the State to realize the right to development and to maintain, provide or guarantee basic public services, such as education, health care and social security in the process of neo-liberal globalization. This had deepened inequality and, in most cases, deprived millions of people, in some cases the majority of the population, of their economic, social and cultural rights. Neo-liberal globalization had contributed to the expansion of vice and crime, such as drug-trafficking, prostitution and pornography, including human trafficking, paedophilia, racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance. The right of every person to a social and international order in which rights and freedoms could be fully realized, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, reiterated in the Declaration on the Right to Development and reaffirmed by consensus at the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993, was far from being achieved.

7. Cuba stated that the mechanisms of free market economy and the "equality" between unequals promoted by neo-liberal globalization through regional free trade agreements or trade liberalization within the framework of WTO tended to favour developed countries and perpetuate and deepen the inequalities between the latter and the countries of the South. With regard to subsidies, Cuba stated that, despite the fact that developed countries and the trade and financial institutions they controlled advocated market deregulation and the elimination of subsidies in developing countries, developed countries continued to provide agricultural subsidies and kept their markets closed to the main exports of the majority of developing countries.

8. With respect to the political aspect of globalization, Cuba referred to the centres of power and their tendency to globalize their formal representative democracy as a unique system; and criticized the biased interpretation of civil and political rights according to which the latter was given priority and was divorced from the realization of economic, social and cultural rights. Cuba highlighted the consensus of the 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action that affirmed the importance of taking into consideration national and regional particularities, as well as differences in historical, cultural and religious heritage. It stated that policies restricting the movement of persons between the South and the North were far from having been liberalized. Instead, restrictions on migration to the industrialized world were increasing, even threatening the use of military force to stop the growing wave of migration. Cuba stressed that, furthermore, the transfer of technology had not been liberalized. On the contrary, the intellectual property regimes, which were aimed at protecting the monopoly and dominance of developed countries and their

enterprises and perpetuated the dependency of developing countries, were being strengthened.

9. Cuba stated that the continued application of neo-liberal policies would render the realization of all human rights for all an unattainable and illusory objective. It highlighted the grave consequences of those policies for peace; national, regional and international stability; the preservation and rational use of resources; and, consequently, the survival of humanity. Cuba underlined the need to adopt policies and measures at the global level which corresponded to the needs of developing countries and were formulated and implemented with their participation. The international cooperation and order conducive to the realization of all human rights must be strengthened urgently by the entire international community, in particular by those who had benefited the most from such cooperation to date. In that respect, international solidarity was indispensable.

10. The main obstacle to finding solutions to problems caused by the current philosophy of globalization was the absence of real political will on the part of industrialized countries to fulfil the commitments previously undertaken and to change the prevailing rules of the game. The approaches and initiatives designed to date by developed countries and international institutions to address the challenges exacerbated by the current neo-liberal globalization, such as underdevelopment, poverty and HIV/AIDS, were only limited palliative remedies and were insufficient to resolve the serious problems and enormous inequalities existing in the contemporary world.

11. Cuba stated that if real political will existed, much could be done, with relatively few resources out of the hundreds of billions of dollars spent annually on armaments, wars of conquest and commercial publicity, to realize the right to life and to development of millions of people.

12. Cuba emphasized the importance of placing development at the centre of the international economic agenda with a view to eradicating poverty and eliminating the disparities between the rich and the poor. It was necessary to establish an equitable, transparent and democratic international system in which far-reaching, comprehensive, innovative and simultaneous measures were implemented in various areas, starting with the cancellation of external debt. Cuba stated that official development assistance should increase, should be unconditional and should not be subject to the economic and political interests of donors. It suggested a return to preferential trade agreements and ways of compensating for the deep and growing inequalities, and recommended that the international financial institutions be replaced and that the United Nations be reformed and democratized in order to make it truly effective. It proposed the creation of a tax for development.

13. Cuba expressed its agreement with the positions of growing social sectors worldwide that questioned and criticized the current neo-liberal order. Humanity would be able to survive only with a more humane and equitable order in which social justice prevailed. Lastly, Cuba reiterated that the unfair, egotistical and unequal international order could solve neither the severe problems that humanity confronted today nor the major challenges of the future.

Kuwait

14. Kuwait provided information on the national development plan, which was aimed at raising the standard of living of its citizens and supporting human and community development. In order to address the impact of the global financial crisis, Kuwait had engaged in efforts to revive its economy through the strengthening of public expenditure, which was the main driver of economic activity, with a focus on public investment to accelerate the implementation of major development projects. It had also encouraged investment by giving the private sector a leading role in the financing, implementation and management of some of the projects.

15. Kuwait stated that it had enacted or amended laws and legislation to reinforce stability and transparency, thereby contributing to an enabling environment for domestic and foreign investment. Those developments were explained in detail in the response of Kuwait. In addition, Kuwait was engaged in preparing a national report on the human rights situation in the country within the framework of the universal periodic review of the Human Rights Council, and had taken steps in that regard.

Panama

16. The Government of Panama stated that it had taken a series of actions in order to fulfil the commitments undertaken with respect to General Assembly resolution 64/160 on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights. In this context, in 2006 the Government had created the Social Protection System Secretariat, involving various governmental institutions that provided services to townships mired in extreme poverty identified through poverty mapping and social vulnerability analyses, to integrate families living in extreme poverty into the dynamics of national development. As of January 2010, the programme had taken care of 63,072 households. The Government had adopted various policies and programmes, as explained in detail in the reply of Panama, on the provision of support to elderly persons who did not have pensions and to victims of sexual violence; on combating hunger and malnutrition; on the protection of the right to family life; on the prevention and eradication of child labour; and on child adoptions. Panama provided information regarding policy recommendations made by the Advisory Council on Infancy in the areas of health, education and a working environment with universal access to breastfeeding rooms and childcare centres.

17. Panama stated that the process of globalization had shortened the distance between countries, peoples, cultures and generations. In this rapprochement, every person claimed his or her rights, and States should guarantee the right to development in a culturally appropriate manner. In order to respond to the effects of globalization, the Ministry of Social Development focused on priority groups. In this respect, a series of activities to ensure the participation, awareness, protection and security of elderly persons had been implemented. Likewise, Panama had been promoting the rights of indigenous peoples, as well as the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, at the national level. Furthermore, a process had been initiated to establish an inter-institutional and multisectoral network to promote respect for the human rights of young people. Panama supported the strengthening of spaces for youth participation in order to improve their impact on public policies.

Peru

18. The Government of Peru stated that its contribution was informed by the views expressed by the National Human Rights Council. Peru hoped that globalization would be seen as a process in the larger context of respect for human rights and the dignity of persons; would serve to integrate countries with which it maintained relations; and would provide opportunities for progress to those countries and their citizens, regardless of gender, race or social class. Peru had recognized the universal nature of human rights by ratifying the relevant international instruments, which had been integrated into its internal legislation, contributing to achieving the full enjoyment of human rights.

19. Peru stated that globalization was a process of structural transformation that affected respect for the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of citizens in every country, and created difficulties that must be addressed. Globalization must benefit every citizen and elevate the income levels of countries in accordance with universally recognized values. In this respect, Peru had implemented policies oriented towards linking economic growth with respect for human rights in areas such as agriculture, trade, poverty reduction and respect for cultural diversity. Detailed information on those programmes was provided by Peru.

20. With regard to good governance and transparency, Peru recognized that the economic sphere could not be separated from the social and political spheres. In this respect, in order to ensure growth and prosperity, market forces should be based on values that helped to improve the living standards of those with fewer resources.

21. With regard to the social, environmental and cultural consequences of globalization, Peru emphasized the need to put in place mechanisms to promote ecologically sustainable development. In this respect, Peru had enacted an environmental law creating a national system for environmental impact evaluation, which established certain norms for all construction, work, services and other activities, as well as public policies, plans and programmes, that might have significant environmental consequences. Among the requirements of the system was the conduct of environmental impact studies, which were management tools that included a technical evaluation of the proposed activity and its foreseeable direct and indirect impacts on the environment, both physically and socially, in the short and long terms. Such studies served to identity the measures necessary for preventing damage or reducing it to tolerable levels.

Senegal

22. The Government of Senegal stated that under pressure from growing market forces, human rights were being reduced to basic civil and political rights, as economic, social and cultural rights were constantly being eroded. Senegal stated that civil and political rights, which were directly under the sovereignty of States, were largely protected within States, subject to the limits laid down by law. In the case of economic, social and cultural rights, under the current conditions of uncontrolled and dehumanizing globalization, market forces were establishing a new economic order that was seriously jeopardizing the full enjoyment of human rights.

23. Senegal stated that the global expansion of the neo-liberal economic system proceeded by means of liberalization, deregulation, privatization and cuts in public

expenditure as a result of pressures exerted on States by international financial and trade institutions. Such policies had appalling consequences, such as poverty and malnutrition, for the majority of the world's population. The proliferation of diseases, the deterioration of educational systems, mass unemployment, job insecurity, the phenomenal rise of corruption and money-laundering, environmental degradation, the destruction of the social fabric, widespread poverty, insecurity, armed violence and the threat of terrorism were the effects of globalization and were likely to seriously affect the enjoyment of human rights.

24. Senegal stated that, within the current economic system, the power of transnational corporations was becoming more prominent, while the State was excluded from economic decision-making in the name of "competition" and the "free play of market forces". The turnover of the largest such corporations was equivalent to or greater than the gross domestic product (GDP) of many countries, and that of half a dozen of them exceeded the GDP of the 100 poorest countries. The working methods and activities of transnational corporations were determined by the sole objective of profit maximization, for the attainment of which they resorted to all possible means. Senegal stressed that the right of peoples to self-determination and to dispose of their natural resources, as laid down in article 1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, was increasingly in question. With the organized looting of wealth in parts of the world, including in Africa, entire populations were deprived of their means of subsistence. The activities of oil giants in the Niger Delta had provoked a revolt by the people of southern Nigeria, who claimed their share of wealth and their right to a healthy environment.

25. Deregulation for the purpose of attracting investment in sectors where traditional social rights were in question opened the way to abuse and led to the violation of articles 7 and 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Thus, the right of all persons to fair working conditions to provide a decent living for themselves and their families was no longer guaranteed. In the view of Senegal, the privatization of essential services — water, energy, education, health and housing — and cuts in public spending had worsened the impoverishment of the populations of underdeveloped countries, where the overwhelming majority still lived below the poverty threshold according to United Nations Development Programme indicators. Access to safe drinking water had become a luxury for the poor and the inhabitants of the deprived zones. The decline in public health services had disadvantaged the poor. While measures to ensure the full exercise of the right of everyone to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health were not made available by States, private health services remained out of reach for the poor and people living in remote areas. Education was no exception to the phenomenon of commercialization. Only rarely did States consider public expenditure on education as investment in human capital formation and make it a priority. According to Senegal, it was quite common to see the State disengage and the quality of education deteriorate. Access to quality education was increasingly becoming a privilege, owing to its high cost.

26. Senegal recommended some measures to reconcile globalization and human rights. It stressed the importance of the empowerment of citizens in questioning public authorities regarding the solution of public policy problems, especially in relation to economic and social rights. The participation of citizens should allow both governors and governed to lead the international trade and financial institutions

to respect the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international covenants on civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights so as to give globalization a human face. Globalization needed a legal framework of which human rights were an essential element. Given that the rule of the market could no longer be beyond the reach of international legal instruments, the human person should be the end, not just the means, of globalization.

27. In the view of Senegal, citizen participation would also lead transnational corporations to respect the relevant international human rights instruments by assuming responsibility for the violation of rights contained therein. Those enterprises which did not enjoy any sovereignty, and thus no jurisdictional immunity, should address the serious infringement of human rights for which they were responsible throughout the world.

28. The participation of people was also expected to induce States to honour their commitments while negotiating with international financial institutions. Senegal believed that decisions regarding market liberalization should no longer be imposed on people through State intervention. Such decisions, including laws or international treaties prior to signature and ratification, must be controlled by democratically elected or legally competent bodies and, where necessary, must be approved or rejected by referendum. The same was true for privatization, deregulation and cuts in public spending.

29. Senegal stated that public participation would help to shield the rights and freedoms of individuals and peoples from subordination to or dependence on the law of the market. As the market was not a democratic and transparent authority and its true decision makers did not have the legitimacy to make decisions on behalf of nations throughout the world, the mission and competence of the Economic and Social Council should be broadened to make it a global observatory and a centre of impetus and regulation for the global market.

Serbia

30. Serbia stated that it had adopted a national strategy for sustainable development for the period 2009-2017 and an action plan for the implementation of the strategy. However, a large number of measures envisaged in the strategy and the action plan could not be implemented in 2010 owing to the global economic crisis. Consequently, a period of substantial decrease in absolute poverty had been followed by an increase in the number of people living below the absolute poverty line, accompanied by a deterioration in all other poverty indicators. The fall in economic activity and the consequent rise in unemployment had contributed to that deterioration. The employment rate had fallen from 50 per cent in 2009 to 37.9 per cent in 2010, which was the second consecutive year to witness a decrease in employment. Serbia also emphasized the big differences in the generation and distribution of income between regions in the country.

31. Serbia stated that the period 2009-2010 was marked by a gradual shift from the concept of decreasing poverty to that of social inclusion aimed at eliminating the causes of poverty, providing an adequate level of living standards and creating conditions for the active participation of the population in the economic, social and cultural spheres. Serbia noted that the priorities in guaranteeing the exercise of human rights included the carrying out of reforms, the elimination of the structural

deficit, in particular where the coordination of tasks falling within the competence of several State bodies was concerned. There needed to be a clear definition of competences for the fulfilment of obligations arising from international human rights instruments and the implementation of relevant norms. Serbia stressed the need to develop a system of functional reporting on and supervision over the implementation of measures with respect to human rights, including minority rights. The priority in guaranteeing the exercise of minority rights lay primarily in strengthening further the social and economic situation of persons belonging to certain national minorities and reducing the ethnic distance of the majority of the Serbian population from members of national minorities.

III. Replies received from United Nations organizations

World Trade Organization

32. The World Trade Organization stressed transparency, coherence and equity as the driving forces behind the multilateral trading system, much as was the case with human rights mechanisms. Opening up international trade could lead to growth and development, helping to raise standards of living and thereby contribute to the actual implementation of proclaimed rights such as those relating to employment, access to education and health care. This presupposed that existing rules were global and just and reflected the expectations of all that adhered to them. The current set of rules and agreements that collectively formed the multilateral trading system did not fully meet that condition, nor did it entirely reflect the changing composition and demands that WTO faced in today's globalized world. The need for updating and change was the most important reason for the WTO membership to launch the Doha Round of negotiations in 2001. The strongest drivers of that conviction were the changing economic, social and environmental circumstances and a shared need to address the development and poverty challenges dominating the international agenda.

33. That change in direction was reflected in the daily operations of the organization, as well as in the negotiating positions of its members. The States members of WTO sought to place the interests of the developing and least developed countries at the heart of WTO and reform the multilateral trading system and functions so that the majority of its membership could secure a larger share in the growth of world trade that would meet their economic and development needs. Providing guaranteed market access, reforming the rules in favour of developing countries and building demand-driven and sustainable technical assistance and capacity-building programmes were examples of the central role that development played in the operations of WTO. It was crucial that members focus on the way forward in implementing the Doha Development Agenda and on the continued functioning and further improvement of the multilateral trading system in the long term.

34. WTO stressed the contribution of the multilateral trading system to economic growth, development and employment. Trade was recognized as one of the driving forces of globalization and the role that trade played in fostering economic development had been clearly established. It had generated gains for many developing countries, and the reverse effects of collapsing trade volumes on growth,

employment and stability had been seen during the 2008 economic and financial crisis. Despite the signs of stabilization in the financial markets, the aftermath of the crisis persisted, in particular for many developing countries. However, recent statistics showed how trade had helped the world to escape recession. After the record-breaking 14.5 per cent surge in the volume of exports in 2010 (12.9 per cent for developed countries and 16.7 per cent for developing countries), world trade growth was expected to return to a more normal rate of expansion of 6.5 per cent in 2011 (4.5 per cent for developed countries and 9.5 per cent for developing countries). WTO had projected a 3.1 per cent growth rate of world GDP for 2011, against 3.6 per cent in 2010. Although the risk of deterioration could not be excluded, owing to the situation in Japan and the Middle East, those figures remained very encouraging and showed that the global economy had recovered to its pre-crisis level.

35. During the crisis, there was a fear that an increase in protectionist measures would run the risk of creating a downward spiral. This trend was visible in both developed and developing countries. The developing countries were expected to suffer more as a result of any surge in protectionism, because their exports were often particularly sensitive to the various protectionist actions and because they generally lacked the safety nets necessary to help those affected. WTO reports on measures taken by its members — as part of its regular Trade Policy Review Mechanism — had indicated further slippage towards more trade-restrictive actions, but resort to high-intensity protectionism had been contained. However, WTO members should remain vigilant and continue to work towards opening up markets rather than closing them, as high unemployment in developed countries and severe belt-tightening in Europe would clearly maintain protectionist pressures. Therefore, WTO members were strongly urged to advance the conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda. An ambitious, balanced and development-oriented outcome would ensure that the global trading system remained open to support the development efforts of all countries. Concluding the Doha Development Agenda would be the surest way of safeguarding individual trade interests and the multilateral trading system against an outbreak of protectionism.

36. WTO stated that it was at the forefront of efforts to fulfil Millennium Development Goal 8 on the global partnership for development and actively promoted the attainment of target E of Millennium Development Goal 8, which aimed to provide access to affordable medicines in developing countries. The Doha Declaration on the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and Public Health had given poor countries additional flexibility to gain access to affordable medicines. The system of compulsory licensing was now more effective and allowed generic versions of patented medicines to be made under compulsory licence for exports to countries that could not manufacture the medicines themselves.

37. Aid for Trade was a stimulus that many developing and least developed countries needed in order to remain competitive and to use trade as a tool for poverty reduction. The effects of the crisis on the availability of liquidity and the subsequent supply of trade credit were well known. WTO emphasized the importance of trade financing at affordable rates and stated that more was needed in terms of building stable and longer-term productive capacity and infrastructural networks in developing countries. Since 2005, Aid for Trade had grown by 10 per cent a year, bringing total new commitments to more than $41 billion in 2009. Aid

for Trade and the successful conclusion of the Doha Round were the two global tools that the international community should use to combat the negative effects of the crisis. Both were born out of mutual interests and cooperation and provided a further opportunity to reinvigorate multilateral cooperation. Strengthening the multilateral trading rules and locking in countries' trade policy ambitions and aspirations were important multipliers of improved and more efficient global governance.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

38. **The year 2011 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development. The Declaration defines the right to development as an inalienable human right by virtue of which everyone has the right to participate in, contribute to and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development (article 1.1). The Declaration sets out the particular requirements of the right to development, which include putting the human person at the centre of development; ensuring active, free and meaningful participation; securing non-discrimination; fairly distributing the benefits of development; respecting self-determination and sovereignty over natural resources; and informing all processes that advance other civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.**

39. **International cooperation and solidarity between States are indispensable for the sharing of the benefits and burdens of globalization. This concerns all spheres of cooperation, including aid, trade, investment, debt relief, transfer of technology, access to medicines, financing for development and climate change. In this regard, the reform of global economic governance is vital so as to ensure that all countries and peoples can benefit equally from globalization. Such reform must take into consideration the enhanced and effective participation of developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and civil society in global decision-making, in order to create more favourable international conditions for equitable, inclusive and sustainable development respectful of all human rights. In a world that bears witness to increasingly frequent natural and man-made disasters, solidarity among peoples and nations is essential to human survival.**

40. **Respect for all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, the rule of law, the fight against corruption and commitment to good governance practices, including transparent, responsible, accountable, inclusive and participatory government responsive to the needs and aspirations of people, are indispensable to peace and security, economic and political stability and development. These principles should be well respected by States and non-State actors at both the national and the international levels. Current developments throughout the world against authoritarian regimes prove that violations of human rights, the inequitable distribution of national wealth and resources, corruption, exclusion and discrimination will not be tolerated in the long term.**

41. **The world has also witnessed popular dissatisfaction in developed countries, with economic policies that have not put people at their centre and thus failed to equitably increase the economic and social welfare of people and led to the economic and social marginalization of certain sectors of the**

population, including the poor, youth, migrants and women. In the light of these developments, States should look for ways to enhance the active, free and meaningful participation of people and civil society in decision-making mechanisms.

42. **At the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in 2010, Member States recognized that human rights were essential in efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Efforts towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals should incorporate the human rights principles of accountability, equality, non-discrimination, participation and transparency.**

43. **The international community should strengthen its efforts to implement an inclusive, equitable and rights-based approach in the lead-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) Conference in 2012 and to focus on addressing the rights of the most vulnerable sectors of society. The human rights dimensions of sustainable development should feature prominently in negotiations.**

44. **States should work towards a meaningful conclusion of the Doha Round of negotiations to ensure an open, rules-based, transparent and fairer multilateral trading system that guarantees respect for all human rights, including the right to development.**

45. **Prior to designing and implementing policies or undertaking any commitments at the local, national, regional and international levels in the area of trade and investment, States should consider and assess the impacts of trade, investment and development policies on human rights.**

46. **The activities of business enterprises may affect human rights. As such, concerted measures are necessary to prevent business-related human rights abuses. States and businesses are encouraged to observe the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, endorsed by the Human Rights Council on 16 June 2011, for implementing the United Nations "protect, respect and remedy" framework developed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises. The Guiding Principles provide — for the first time — a global standard for preventing and addressing the risk of adverse impacts on human rights linked to business activity.**

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Sustainable mountain development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report was prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 64/205, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixty-sixth session on the status of sustainable development in mountain regions. The report describes the status of sustainable mountain development at the national and international levels, including an overall analysis of the challenges that lie ahead, and provides suggestions for consideration by the Assembly as to how to continue to promote and effectively sustain development in mountain regions around the world within the existing policy context, including chapter 13 of Agenda 21, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"), the Millennium Development Goals and the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. The report was prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in collaboration with Governments, relevant agencies of the United Nations system and other organizations.

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I. Introduction

1. In 1998, the General Assembly adopted resolution 53/24, by which it proclaimed 2002 the International Year of Mountains. The resolution encouraged Governments, the United Nations system and all other actors to take advantage of the year in order to increase awareness of the importance of sustainable mountain development. In 2003, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) prepared a report on the achievements of the year, which was transmitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General (A/58/134).

2. The International Year of Mountains in 2002 built on chapter 13 of Agenda 21, which focused on mountain issues, and was dedicated to protecting mountain ecosystems and improving the well-being of mountain people. The year acted as a catalyst for long-term, effective action to implement chapter 13, and it achieved much by raising awareness of the importance of mountains to life and the need to improve mountain environments and the livelihoods of the inhabitants of mountain areas. The activities of the year supported the establishment of 78 national committees for country-level action and strengthened partnerships with stakeholders in mountain issues, culminating in the launch of the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions (Mountain Partnership) at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002.

3. The International Year of Mountains led to the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 57/245, by which it designated 11 December as International Mountain Day, as from 2003, and encouraged the international community to organize events at all levels on that day to highlight the importance of sustainable mountain development.

4. In its resolutions 59/238, 60/198 and 62/196, the General Assembly decided to consider, at its sixtieth, sixty-second and sixty-fourth sessions, respectively, under the agenda item entitled "Sustainable development", sub-items related to sustainable mountain development. At each of those sessions, the Secretary-General submitted reports entitled "Sustainable mountain development" to the Assembly (A/60/309, A/62/292 and A/64/222).

5. The present report is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 64/205, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to it at its sixty-sixth session on the status of implementation of sustainable development in mountain regions. The report was prepared by FAO in collaboration with Governments, relevant agencies of the United Nations system and other organizations.

II. Background and challenges

6. There is increasing awareness that mountains, as the source of most of the Earth's freshwater, repositories of rich biological diversity, popular destinations for recreation and tourism and areas of important cultural diversity, knowledge and heritage, are fragile ecosystems of global importance. Covering about one quarter of the world's land surface, mountains provide life support for about 12 per cent of the world's population, as well as essential goods and services to more than half of humankind. Yet many of the world's most impoverished and food-insecure people

live in mountain regions. Consequently, there is a need to ensure the ecological health and the economic and social improvement of mountain areas, both for the sake of mountain inhabitants and for people living in lowland areas.

7. Awareness of the importance of mountain ecosystems and communities has increased since the adoption of Agenda 21, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, which contained a chapter entitled "Managing fragile ecosystems: sustainable mountain development".[1] Commitment and will to support and sustain mountain ecosystems were strengthened during the International Year of Mountains, and the subject has gained an increasingly high profile on agendas at all levels. In the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, actions required to address the sustainable development of mountain regions are set out in paragraph 42. Along with chapter 13 of Agenda 21, these measures serve as the overall policy framework for sustainable mountain development.

8. Despite increased recognition of mountain issues and tangible results, significant constraints remain to alleviating poverty, averting environmental degradation and attaining sustainable development in mountain regions, in line with the Millennium Development Goals.

9. It is nine years since the International Year of Mountains, yet many challenges remain. Mountain communities and their environments are still vulnerable to growing demands for water and other natural resources, expanding tourism, greater rates of out-migration, disproportionate incidence of conflict and the pressures of industry, mining and agriculture in an increasingly globalized world. The global economic slowdown, paired with soaring food prices, has dramatically increased the number of hungry and undernourished people, and mountain people are particularly vulnerable to food shortages. The threats and consequences of climate change provide new challenges requiring urgent attention and concerted efforts. There is a clear need for higher levels of funding and investment in mountain areas, for enhanced coordination and collaboration and for a stronger enabling environment with more supportive laws, policies and institutions.

10. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which is to be held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, offers an important opportunity to ensure that sustainable mountain development has a prominent place on the global agenda, to secure renewed political commitment to such development and to review the mountain agenda, taking into account recent developments and current global challenges such as climate change, increasing natural disasters, water scarcity, desertification and the food and energy crisis.

11. The demand for goods and services from mountains is growing steadily. In the context of a green economy, new opportunities for investment are emerging, especially for renewable energy and ecosystem services (for example, freshwater and biodiversity conservation). These opportunities offer scope for economic development, but they also place increased pressure on an already fragile environment and scarce resources. The implementation of institutional arrangements, which ensure a balanced development of social, ecological and

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolution Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I, chapter 13.

economic capital, is essential in order to guarantee that these new opportunities are beneficial and do not perpetuate the degradation of social and ecological systems in mountain areas.

III. National actions

12. Action at the national level is a key factor in achieving progress in sustainable mountain development. It is beyond the scope of the present report to describe the multitude of activities undertaken by countries. The following sections provide selected examples and highlights of actions being taken at the national level.

Africa

13. In Morocco, a project in the Outat watershed in the high Atlas mountains (Midelt province) provides assistance to key stakeholders in combating desertification through watershed management. The project is implemented by FAO as a component of a Spanish-funded interregional programme. The Government of Morocco, with the support of FAO and the Mountain Partnership secretariat, has implemented a project for improving the production of saffron in the Anti-Atlas mountains. The project generated valuable information regarding the technical, social and economic aspects of production and processing, as well as a comprehensive overview of the saffron value chain.

14. Guinea is active in the implementation of the regional Fouta Djallon Highlands Integrated Natural Resources Management Project, funded by the Global Environmental Facility. Guinea hosts the Regional Project Coordination Unit, and 18 of the 29 project pilot sites are located in the country. A baseline survey and a watershed management plan have been developed for all pilot sites, as have interventions related to improving natural resources management and enhancing local livelihoods, which will be initiated in the fall of 2011.

Asia

15. Kyrgyzstan, with support from the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations University, is operating the sustainable land management project in the High Pamir and Pamir-Alai mountains. Mountain communities have received small grants to mitigate the pressure on environment, including land degradation and soil erosion, as well as funding for wildlife conservation. Many international organizations and non-governmental organizations have been working with local municipal authorities in mountain areas to support the recently adopted "Pasture law" (2009).

16. Since 2009, China has implemented a number of plans and policies in this area that have been incorporated into the twelfth five-year plan for forestry development, which aims to improve forest coverage and forest carbon-sink capacity. The major national plans and strategies being jointly supported by competent ministries and governmental agencies include: the second phase of the Natural Forest Protection Programme; the Three North Shelterbelt Development Programme; the Wildlife Conservation and Nature Reserve Development Programme; the Programme for Converting Cropland to Forests and Grasslands; and the Integrated Agricultural Development Programme.

17. The medium-term livelihood rehabilitation project in earthquake-affected areas of Pakistan, implemented by the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority, with Swedish funding and technical support from FAO, was successfully completed in June 2011. In addition to the development of 1,789 community livelihood rehabilitation plans throughout the earthquake-affected areas as well as extended capacity-building activities, the project developed and implemented integrated and collaborative watershed management plans in 17 watersheds. Field activities included landslide stabilization, natural resource management, livelihood improvement and institutional innovation.

18. The project on sustainable mountain development, initiated by the Government of Turkey in 2008, with financial and technical support from FAO, was successfully completed in December 2010. Subsequently a strategic document was developed to mainstream sustainable mountain development in the national planning process. At the local level, a pilot project was implemented in the Yuntdagi mountains, Manisa province, to experiment with and display sustainable mountain development efforts in a concrete field reality.

Europe

19. The deep engagement and commitment of the Swiss Government in the field of sustainable mountain development, at both the national and international levels, continues, including through its funding of the Mountain Forum and the Mountain Research Initiative. Switzerland remains the main donor for the Mountain Partnership. In preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in 2012, Switzerland has initiated regional and global assessments on the progress made in sustainable mountain development since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. Switzerland will host the Lucerne World Mountain Conference in October 2011, during which reports on sustainable mountain development will be presented and future challenges and opportunities in this area discussed. During its current Presidency of the Alpine Convention, Switzerland aims to foster collaboration throughout the Alps by taking up relevant political issues and sparking debate. The Government will launch an innovative public-private partnership for sustainable mountain development, with a novel forum celebrating International Mountain Day, to be launched in 2011 in four regions in the global South and North, including Verbier in Switzerland.

20. In the Sudety mountains of Poland, as a result of important projects implemented during the last five to six years to promote the idea of sustainable mountain development, financed by FAO, the Global Environment Facility, the EQUAL programme of the European Commission and some private foundations, local non-governmental organizations successfully established a real mountain alliance with a number of partners, including local and regional governments, agricultural universities, mountain culture centres and national and landscape protected areas. This alliance serves as a model for other mountain provinces in the country.

21. In Italy, the consistent use of European Union funds to support research and cooperation projects in mountain areas has facilitated work on a wide range of issues, primarily the effects of climate change, natural hazards, integrated risk management, climate-proof spatial planning, ecological networks and sustainable tourism. At the international level, Italy continues to participate in the activities of

the Mountain Partnership and provides financial support to its secretariat. The Italian Development Cooperation supports a number of projects in mountain areas, for example the "Stations at High Altitude for Research on the Environment" project, jointly implemented by UNEP and the Ev-K2-CNR (Italian National Research Council) Committee. Italy is strongly committed to ensuring that mountains receive adequate attention in key international processes, including after the holding of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

Latin America

22. Since 2009, the Committee for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions of Argentina has been very active, both nationally and internationally. A national and provincial mountain platform targeting dialogue in the various mountain zones was established, while existing dialogues with different regions and provinces have been improved. The Committee has launched local and provincial mountain committees capable of involving the southern countries of the Andes and enhancing regional contacts and joint activities with mountain frameworks. In June 2011, the Committee, with the Mountain Partnership secretariat, organized an international workshop of the southern Andean countries with representatives from European entities working on sustainable mountain development.

23. Ecuador is preparing to implement a project on the enhancement of participatory management for sustainable development in the Andes. A project funded by the Global Environment Facility on the management of the natural resources of the Chimborazo volcano was launched in June 2011 and the Facility's National Committee recently approved the project identification form for a project on carbon and biodiversity in high Andean ecosystems, which was presented by the Consortium for the Sustainable Development in the Andean Region. Implementation of a project on combating desertification and degradation through watershed management, a component of a Spanish-funded interregional programme, is ongoing in the Manabi province with technical support from FAO. In July 2011, an FAO-funded project, implemented in the Cotopaxi area, with the support of the Mountain Partnership secretariat, successfully developed models for sustainable mountain agricultural farms as well as development plans.

24. In Guatemala, the Forest Incentive and the Smallholder Forestry and Agroforestry Vocation Incentive programmes promote mechanisms for environmental services and public goods provided by natural and planted mountain forests. From 2009 to 2010, 12,482 hectares of forest plantations and 39,919 hectares of natural forests were supervised and certified in the highlands. Guatemala invested $6,978,114 in incentives for forest management, generating more than 48,000 jobs and involving around 300 indigenous communities. The Vice-Presidency of Guatemala has endorsed the establishment of an inter-agency commission for the prevention and combat of illegal logging and the implementation of a pilot action plan aimed at strengthening forest management in the Guatemalan highlands.

25. In Peru, a multi-stakeholder national working group on mountain ecosystems initiated its second phase in 2011, implementing numerous programmes at both national and international levels. The regional governments of Piura, Ancash, Apurimac and Cuzco are implementing programmes on adaptation to climate change, while in Piura, Ancash and Huánuco, a programme on the sustainable use of

biodiversity in the "Gran Ruta Inca" and the in situ long-term conservation project for local varieties of crops are under way. Together with Ecuador and Colombia, Peru is involved in the regional programme for the management of Andean Forest ecosystems in the regions of Apurimac and Piura.

26. The Government of Mexico, through the National Forestry Commission, is undertaking a project with financial support from the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility to improve the effectiveness of the national programme for payments for environmental services in upper watersheds and mountain areas and to increase the provision of ecosystem services that generate local and global benefits. The project also promotes local mechanisms for payments for environmental services, with financial support from direct users of environmental services under a scheme of matching funds.

27. Chile depends heavily on mountain ecosystems for water, energy, minerals, tourism and the provision of subsistence habitat for indigenous peoples. To create a national committee for mountains, promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a training workshop is scheduled to be held in September 2011 for the countries of the Andean region (Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)). The focus will be on melting snow caps and glaciers and the need for policies to manage the environmental and economic impacts of a changing climate.

IV. International actions

A. Thematic initiatives

Biodiversity conservation and mountain ecosystems

28. In 2004, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted its programme of work on mountain biological diversity. At its tenth meeting, held in Japan in 2010, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, undertook an in-depth review of the status of the programme's implementation and noted that: (a) the programme of work was successful in bringing together the international mountain community and improving the capabilities of institutions and organizations to promote conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity; (b) as of 2009, about 14.4 per cent of the mixed mountain system biomes were protected; (c) the observance of International Mountain Day and many regional and local initiatives are raising awareness of the importance of mountain biological diversity.

29. In 2010, the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (the Carpathian Convention) entered into force. To support the implementation of the Protocol, the "BIOREGIO Carpathians" project was approved under the European Union South-Eastern Europe programme. UNEP Vienna, the interim secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, is a partner in the Austria-Slovakia cross-border project "Alpine Carpathian Corridor", which aims to re-establish the ecological corridor between the Alps and the Carpathians.

30. The Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA) Programme of DIVERSITAS International contributes to policy on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in mountain regions. In 2010, the programme launched its portal on mountain biodiversity, permitting mountain-specific access to primary biodiversity data. In July 2010, it organized an international conference on the "Functional significance of mountain biodiversity" in Switzerland. With the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the programme prepared a booklet on "Mountain biodiversity and global change" for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

31. During the tenth meeting, the Mountain Partnership secretariat organized a side event to explore more effective implementation of the programme of work on mountain biological diversity. The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development organized two side events, entitled: (a) "Facing the challenges of mountain biodiversity conservation and management in a changing climate across the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region"; and (b) "Transboundary cooperation for biodiversity conservation: A strategy towards 'ecosystem approach' of the Convention on Biological Diversity and adaptation to climate change".

32. The Ev-K2-CNR Committee has successfully launched its project "Social, economic and environmental development of Central Karakorum National Park and buffer zone" in the north of Pakistan, with funding from the Governments of Italy and Pakistan. The project aims to support local authorities and stakeholders in building capacity in natural resources management in the park and its buffer zone, with a focus on poverty reduction. The Committee collaborates with Karakorum International University, the World Wildlife Foundation, the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme and several local and national non-governmental organizations.

33. In 2010, the Mountain Group of the Man and the Biosphere programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which is hosted at the Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Science joined the Katunskiy Biosphere Reserve and the International Union for Conservation of Nature-World Commission on Protected Areas Mountain Protected Areas Network, to hold an international workshop in the Altai entitled "Climate change and connectivity conservation of biodiversity in the Altai-Sayan eco-region". The workshop adopted a plan of action for the Transboundary Altai-Sayan-Baikal Connectivity Conservation Management initiative (Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, China and Mongolia).

Climate change

34. As revealed by the rapid retreat of glaciers worldwide, mountains are early indicators of climate change. It is vital to study and monitor the biological, physical and environmental health of mountains in an effort to better understand, manage and mitigate the negative effects of climate change.

35. The Ev-K2-CNR Committee launched the Stations at High Altitude for Research on the Environment (SHARE) project to study climate and environment in mountain regions. The project's monitoring network currently includes 14 sites around the world. The installation of the highest automatic weather station at Mount Everest South col (8,000 metres) and the supraglacial automatic weather stations at 5,700 metres on the Changri Nup glacier strengthened the atmospheric monitoring in the Himalayas through the study of climatic impacts on glacier dynamics,

including the effects of black carbon in the atmosphere, including its effects on the snow-ice melting processes.

36. In June 2009, the Mountain Research Initiative co-sponsored a side event with Germanwatch and the German Federal Environment Agency at the meeting organized by the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bonn on "Adaptation in mountain regions: Current directions and research needs for adaptation to climate change in mountain regions". The Initiative collaborated with the Mountain Partnership, the Government of Liechtenstein and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in organizing a side event at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention to highlight the challenges posed by climate change to mountain regions.

37. The Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment programme of DIVERSITAS prepared a report on the impacts of climate change on mountain biodiversity in Europe for the Council of Europe. The report gives an overview of recent literature about expected future climatic changes, discusses the impact of climate change on mountain biodiversity and furnishes recommendations on adaptation measures.

38. The Global Observation Research Initiative in Alpine Environments aims to establish and maintain a site-based network for long-term surveillance of the impact of climate change on fragile Alpine ecosystems and biodiversity in high mountain systems worldwide. The initiative is particularly active in the Andean region, supporting a regional monitoring system of 10 sites to assess the impact of climate change on biodiversity in the high Andes.

39. The Mountain Partnership secretariat actively promotes better awareness about the threats posed by climate change to mountain areas and facilitates the work of its members in this context. A document was prepared by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation for the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention in the context of the Mountain Partnership on "Mountains and climate change — from understanding to action". During the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, the secretariat organized, with member countries, two side events on: (a) adapting to the impacts of climate change in mountain areas: innovative approaches at local and national level; and (b) regional approaches for climate change adaptation in mountain areas.

40. In June 2011, a meeting was organized by FAO and the Mountain Partnership secretariat, with participants from Armenia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Colombia, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Morocco, Nepal, Peru, Slovenia, Tajikistan, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development and the secretariat of the Framework Convention, to discuss two major initiatives on mountains: the "Mountain Initiative" of the Government of Nepal, which was announced in 2009 at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties by the Prime Minister of Nepal, to establish a stronger political lobby for mountain issues within the secretariat of the Framework Convention; and the Group of Mountain Landlocked Developing Countries, which was formally established by the Governments of Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

41. In June 2011, the Mountain Partnership secretariat along with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, received a grant from the World Bank to support a strategic initiative on climate change impacts, adaptation and

development in mountain regions. The initiative will focus on raising awareness about the relationship between mountains and climate change among members of national delegations to the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention, as well as politicians, scientists and practitioners working on climate change policy. The initiative will empower national delegations and experts to negotiate and mobilize international support to promote climate change adaptation for the mountain ecosystems.

42. In December 2010, the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety announced 10 million euros in funding for the programme of UNEP, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature on ecosystem-based adaptation, including the joint project in mountain regions. The pilot phase of the programme will focus on the mountain regions of Nepal, Peru and Uganda for a period of four years (2011-2014).

Desertification

43. Dryland mountain ecosystems represent more than one third of all mountains and provide up to 90 per cent of the freshwater supply in those areas. Poverty and food insecurity appear to be particularly exacerbated in arid mountain areas. In addition, more than one quarter of the world's biodiversity hotspots are in such locations. The Mountain Partnership secretariat, the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation are preparing a joint publication entitled "Highlands and drylands: mountains, a source of resilience in arid regions" to draw greater attention to, and promote a sustainable mountain development agenda on, these fragile, arid ecosystems.

44. DESIRE, an integrated research project including 26 international partners funded under the European Union sixth framework programme (2007-2012), has developed and tested sustainable land management strategies for areas vulnerable to desertification. Eleven of the 16 DESIRE sites, which are in the Mediterranean and across the world, are located in mountainous or hilly environments where the threat of desertification is aggravated by degradation and erosion. As part of the DESIRE project, the Centre for Development and Environment of the University of Bern has developed a participatory methodology to identify, evaluate and select the most promising sustainable land management strategies based on local contexts.

Mountain water

45. Mountain water resources are increasingly under pressure, with serious implications both for mountain and lowland areas. Greater attention is being paid to this critical issue through events, scientific publications and research programmes around the world, but more concerted efforts are required to face the growing challenges of adequate water quality and supply.

46. The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development has been designated as the Asia-Pacific knowledge hub for water management in Asian mountain regions by the Asia-Pacific Water Forum. The Centre is also the knowledge partner of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue Knowledge Forum on the subject of Himalayan water. With the support of the World Bank, the Centre has launched a

small grant research programme on sharing benefits from water management from the rivers of the greater Himalayan region.

Watershed management

47. Since 2009, the follow-up to the FAO-led global review of watershed management experiences has received considerable attention. The technical resource book, *The new generation of watershed management programmes and projects*, and the policy document entitled "Why invest in watershed management?" continue to be widely disseminated. Recommendations from the global review are being applied as part of several field projects in Ecuador, Guatemala, Mauritania, Morocco, Pakistan and West Africa.

48. The twenty-seventh session of the European Forestry Commission Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds, entitled "Integrated forest and water management of mountain watersheds: experiences and perspectives", was held in the Slovak Republic in April 2010. The twenty-eighth session of the Working Group will take place in September 2011 in Turkey on the theme "Water for forests — forests for water".

49. The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development is focusing on capacity-building for integrated watershed management practices in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region. International training courses on participatory integrated watershed management are held regularly and are constantly being customized to incorporate emerging thematic issues. Climate proofing of community watershed plans has been implemented with a focus on the development of high-altitude agribusiness, linking good practices to advance a green economy. In March 2011, the Centre and FAO organized a workshop to discuss a long-term programme to implement and field test the new generation of watershed management techniques in the Asia-Pacific region.

50. The Latin American Technical Cooperation Network on Watershed Management aims to increase technical capacity in watershed management, focusing on exchanges of experience, knowledge management and transnational cooperation. The network continues to play a key role in monitoring and fostering collaborative actions and the sharing of experiences in Latin America.

Disaster risk management

51. Disaster risk management in mountain areas is receiving increased attention, particularly in the context of the impact of climate change. The growing risks of glacial lake outburst floods in the Himalayas and of rockfalls in the Alps are only two examples.

52. The Integrated Management of Natural Disaster Risks project, carried out by the Central Asia Mountain Partnership in Kyrgyzstan, has allowed mountain communities living in the pilot villages to be better prepared for natural disasters, acquiring new knowledge and skills for the construction of bridges and dams.

53. The Second World Landslide Forum, which is being organized by the International Consortium on Landslides and its partners, will take place in October 2011 at FAO headquarters. With 25 thematic sessions on its agenda, the focus of this important global event is "Putting science into practice".

54. The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, in collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), has launched a programme on regional flood information systems, with the goal of minimizing the loss of lives and property by reducing flood vulnerability in the Himalayan region. The Centre and WMO are working together to improve data quality, effective data collection and dissemination and regional cooperation.

Indigenous peoples issues

55. Indigenous groups living in less-favoured areas, such as mountains, are among the poorest in the world owing to socio-economic and political marginalization. Nevertheless, many lessons can be learned from their approaches to and experiences in managing and conserving mountain ecosystems.

56. The World Mountain People Association aims to make the voice and the needs of mountain peoples heard. It proposes to create regional centres for interaction and cooperation between mountain peoples and national policymakers, funding agencies and international actors. The Association is also elaborating global charter communities, territories and natural resources management activities and is organizing an assessment on progress made on the goals set out in chapter 13 of Agenda 21 in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012.

57. Yachay Wasi, based in Peru, is an indigenous non-governmental organization that focuses on the protection of biodiversity in the Andes and aims to make the voice of indigenous peoples heard at the global level. In 2008, after completing the first phase of an environmental project recovery of the circuit of four lakes in the provinces of Acomayo and Canas, Yachay Wasi launched its "Million native trees campaign".

Gender

58. Mountain women face many of the same challenges faced by women throughout the developing world, but those challenges are further accentuated by altitude, steep terrain and isolation.

59. Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management has implemented a project entitled "Rural women's leadership" to strengthen the role and voice of women leaders in rural organizations at all levels and to promote the participation of representative women farmers' organizations in the strategic policy dialogue and negotiation arena at the national, regional and global levels. To date, the project has trained over 35 leaders among farmers in Nepal and 30 in the Philippines; these leaders have, in turn, trained over 200 rural women.

60. The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development has organized a number of events on a variety of issues related to gender, climate change adaptation and development. One of the major problems in the Himalayan region is the growing feminization of mountain agriculture owing to the massive male migration, which has increased women's workload and drudgery.

Payment for environmental services

61. Mountain regions have a significant potential for the deployment of innovative financing mechanisms, including payment for environmental services schemes, given the global importance of their resources.

62. Since 2009, the Albertine Rift Conservation Society, in collaboration with the World Wildlife Fund of the United States, the University of Cambridge and various local institutions, has sought to assess the stock of environmental goods and services coming from the Greater Virunga region, a transboundary area between Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda. The team produced a series of maps depicting the distribution and relevance of four major ecosystem services: water yield; carbon sequestration; timber and non-timber forest products; and tourism. The outcomes clearly show the major importance of high-altitude natural ecosystems in the Virunga massif, including the Virunga volcanoes and the Rwenzori mountains, in providing environmental benefits to lowland areas.

63. The pasture ticket, newly introduced in Kyrgyzstan, is an innovative payment for environmental services tool, replacing the old pasture renting system, whereby pasture use is now paid for in livestock units instead of hectares. The pasture ticket is an economic instrument for farmers to regulate livestock numbers depending on the capacity of the seasonal pastures, and, thus, protects against pasture degradation.

High-quality mountain products

64. The promotion, processing and marketing of high-quality mountain products are becoming increasingly important for the improvement of the livelihoods of the inhabitants of mountain communities around the world.

65. In 2011, a manual about the organic production of Andean crops was published by FAO and the Mountain Partnership secretariat on a project in the Cotopaxi area of Ecuador, providing technical information about traditional and innovative cultivation techniques without the use of chemicals. The project demonstrated that traditional mountain products not only contribute to family food security, health and a balanced diet, but can also significantly increase family income if sold in the right markets. In Morocco, a technical manual on good practices in growing saffron was issued as a result of the FAO-Mountain Partnership project on the saffron value chain mentioned above.

Tourism

66. Tourism in mountain areas is a potential long-term source of income that can create positive effects, which can also be channelled towards both conservation and benefit-sharing.

67. The World Tourism Organization has developed a set of indicators to assist managers in making informed decisions regarding issues of particular concern to mountain environments, including loss or degradation of flora and fauna, erosion, water quality and the economic benefits of tourism.

68. In 2011, the draft text of the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism to the Carpathian Convention was elaborated with the assistance of the World Tourism Organization and was adopted and signed on the margins of the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention.

Policy and law

69. The Fouta Djallon Highlands Integrated Natural Resources Management Project, funded by the Global Environmental Facility, is jointly implemented by the African Union, FAO and UNEP. The project involves eight countries in West Africa

(the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone). One important component of the project is to mitigate the causes and the negative impacts of land degradation through the establishment of a regional legal and institutional framework for cooperation in transboundary natural resources management and the adaptation and harmonization of conservation laws within participating countries.

70. Since 1991, the European Association of Elected Representatives from Mountain Areas has promoted the participation of regional and local decision makers in the formulation of European policy for mountain issues, in particular issues related to regional, environmental and transport matters. Its main objective is to ensure that the specificities of mountain regions are reflected and considered in European Union policies. The Association currently includes members from 10,000 municipalities, 100 provinces and 50 regions from 11 national members. The Association also participates in a number of European projects.

Education

71. The International Programme on Research and Training on Sustainable Management of Mountain Areas was launched in 2007 by the Mountain Partnership secretariat, UNESCO and the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Turin, Italy. The training programme is funded by the government of the Piedmont region, local authorities, the Consortium for Sustainable Development in the Andean Region, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. In 2010, the training course focused on protecting mountain biodiversity and in 2011 on natural hazards and disaster risks management. Each year around 30 experts from developing countries are trained.

72. UNESCO has prepared a teaching resource kit for mountain countries with funding by the Flemish Government of Belgium. The kit targets schoolteachers and students in secondary schools in mountain areas of countries worldwide. It offers a creative approach to environmental education and is designed to stimulate students' curiosity and allow for a better transmission of scientific information and environmental knowledge.

73. The University of Central Asia has established the Mountain Societies Research Centre, dedicated to supporting and enhancing the resilience and quality of life of mountain societies through research on the sustainable development and management of physical, social, economic and cultural assets. The Centre's fellowship programme builds Central Asian capacity to conduct research to inform policy and practice to promote sustainable mountain development.

74. The Centre for Mountain Studies at Perth College in Scotland, which, since 2009, has hosted the UNESCO Chair in sustainable mountain development, has run an online Master of Science in managing sustainable mountain development since 2004. Building on this experience, the Centre is developing Masters-level courses in collaboration with institutions in Asia.

Research

75. In 2011, in collaboration with the Mountain Partnership secretariat, MRI has promoted the development and support of a network of scientists focused on global

change research in the mountains of sub-Saharan Africa contributing to the activities leading to the fifth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. With support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Mountain Research Initiative brokered an agreement between FAO and the University of Pretoria to create a coordination unit for the Global Change Research Network for African Mountains.

76. UNESCO, through its Man and the Biosphere programme, continues to implement its worldwide project on "Global change in mountain sites — developing adaptation strategies in mountain biosphere reserves". The project studies key drivers for and impacts of global changes, including climate change, in fields including biological diversity, availability of water resources, land use change and mountain economies. The results will provide a better understanding on how change will affect mountain environments and livelihoods.

77. The Centre for Mountain Studies has coordinated an integrated assessment of Europe's mountain areas for the European Environment Agency, which was published in September 2010. The Centre organized an international conference on global change and the world's mountains in Scotland, bringing together 450 participants from 60 countries and five continents. The Centre is also responsible for reporting on the mountain perspective for the two-year project entitled Geographic Specificities and Development Potentials in Europe, funded by the European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion, which aims to provide a coherent framework to characterize past trends and to map out the potential future development of the geographical specificities for territorial policy and regional development.

78. The Mountain Research Initiative has implemented two synthesis workshops, one on climate change and mountain water resources and the other on drivers of food security in mountain regions. The workshops are in preparation for further discussions on: urban growth in mountain regions; building resilience in coupled human-natural systems in mountains; and the vulnerabilities and management of ecosystem services in mountains.

79. Together with the Mountain Research Initiative, the Chinese Academy of Science has developed and promoted the "Third pole environment", an international project focused on investigating the nature and impacts of global change on the Tibetan plateau and the surrounding mountain ranges. Since 2009, the Academy has organized annual "Third pole environment" workshops to develop a strategic science plan to organize research efforts by groups from all of the countries in the region and in Europe.

80. In 2010, the Mountain Group of UNESCO Man and the Biosphere programme initiated a consortium of research institutions of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, partner universities and biosphere reserves, with the objective of developing a strategy for sustainable development and landscape diversity conservation in the transboundary Altai-Sayan-Baikal eco-region within the context of current global changes. The research is being conducted under partnership arrangements with regional research institutions in Kazakhstan, China, Mongolia and several international institutions, including UNDP, the International Centre for

Integrated Mountain Development and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

Communications and networking

81. The Mountain Forum is a global network promoting sustainable mountain development through information and knowledge sharing. With support from its regional networks (Asia-Pacific, InfoAndina and European Mountain Forum) the Forum currently serves more than 7,000 individual members, providing access to more than 5,600 digital resources. The Forum also supports the global mountain community by serving as an information clearing house and providing platforms for dialogue among its users. The most recent e-forums were related to benefit-sharing mechanisms for hydrological environmental services in the Andes. A programme of the Consortium for Sustainable Development in the Andean Region, InfoAndina currently supports the implementation of several policy dialogues on climate change, water management and rural innovation.

82. In 2010, the theme of the International Mountain Day, "Mountain minorities and indigenous peoples", highlighted the threats faced by those communities, but also acknowledged the invaluable contributions they make towards overcoming the global challenges of hunger and malnutrition, biodiversity loss and climate change. The 2011 International Mountain Day will focus on mountain forests and will be linked to the International Year of Forests 2011.

83. The international peer-reviewed quarterly journal *Mountain Research and Development* enhances knowledge on key sustainable mountain development issues by bringing together research findings and validated development experience. Since 2009, the journal has been available online, with open access for all users. The journal also produces special issues on subjects including mountain forests in a changing world, agro-biodiversity and management tools and methods for protected areas. The editorial office of the journal is part of the Centre for Development and Environment at the University of Bern.

84. The Central Asia Mountain Partnership Forum 2010, a learning and knowledge sharing event entitled "Mountain communities of Central Asia and climate change — call to action: Global challenges in local perspectives", took place in November 2010 in Kazakhstan. It brought together more than 100 participants from Central Asia, Europe and Latin America, representing a variety of stakeholder groups.

B. Partnerships, transboundary cooperation and funding mechanisms

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

85. Members of the Mountain Partnership, including the Governments of Italy and Switzerland, FAO, the World Bank, UNEP and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, are working together to draw attention to mountain ecosystems and the views of mountain peoples in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development processes. These organizations have formed a strategic alliance to position the Mountain Partnership as an agent for transformation towards green growth and to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable mountain development. Regional findings and global assessments on progress made in sustainable mountain development since the United Nations

Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, initiated by the Government of Switzerland, and the outcomes of the "Lucerne World Mountain Conference" will be channelled into the preparation processes for the Conference.

Partnerships

86. The Mountain Partnership has a growing membership, which currently includes more than 180 members, including Governments, intergovernmental organizations and major groups. In 2008, the Mountain Partnership secretariat began a process of decentralization to provide more effective services and support to its members. Today, the secretariat consists of the central and decentralized hubs hosted, respectively, by FAO in Rome (central hub), the Consortium for Sustainable Development in the Andean Region in Peru (Latin America hub), the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development in Nepal (Asia-Pacific hub), and the University of Central Asia in Kyrgyzstan (Central Asia hub), as well as the Environmental Reference Centre hosted by UNEP in Vienna.

Transboundary cooperation

87. In 2003, the Alliance of Central Asian Mountain Communities, an association of 41 mountain villages in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan, was established in the wake of the International Year of Mountains and the Bishkek Global Mountain Summit. The Alliance aims to improve livelihoods in mountain areas through capacity development and the sharing of experiences among its members and within networks of communities in mountain areas worldwide.

88. Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru have joined forces to promote a regional approach to development in the Andean region. Together these countries created an Andean initiative in the context of the Mountain Partnership. The Paramo Andino Project is a regional initiative of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, funded by the Global Environment Facility and executed by the Consortium for Sustainable Development in the Andean Region. The project is aimed at overcoming key barriers to biodiversity conservation and protecting the hydrology of the Paramo area. The hydrological monitoring of Andean ecosystems initiative is a regional undertaking to generate, improve and share information related to Andean hydrology and the impacts of global change.

89. Since 2009, the Centre for Development and Environment and its local and international partners have supported Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan in a transboundary initiative on sustainable land management in the Pamir-Alai mountains. This initiative, funded by the Global Environment Facility, aims to address the interlinked problems of land degradation and poverty within one of Central Asia's crucial freshwater sources and biodiversity hotspots.

90. UNEP continues to lead an initiative that builds on experience sharing of the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions with other mountain regions, such as the Caucasus, the Dinaric Arc and the Balkans, to facilitate the development of a legal framework of regional cooperation. In the framework of the Environment and Security Initiative, UNEP supports transboundary cooperation in mountain areas in border regions of the Balkans. This work contributes to the stabilization of the region and the improvement of the environment. UNEP also facilitates the negotiations for a legally binding agreement of the Dinaric Arc.

91. The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, with UNEP support, has initiated the regional Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation Initiative. A draft regional cooperation framework was developed for implementing conservation and ecosystem management activities within the transboundary Kailash Sacred Landscape initiatives in China, India and Nepal. An innovative and highly participatory approach was implemented to create a policy enabling environment, institutional networks and the knowledge base for regional collaboration.

Funding mechanisms

92. A preliminary portfolio analysis of World Bank investments in sustainable mountain development indicates investments of approximately $66 billion globally for the 2000-2010 period. Investments in sustainable mountain development in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Latin America lead, with about $16 billion each, closely followed by investments of about $13 billion in East Asia and the Pacific. Africa and South Asia received investments in mountain regions amounting to about $8.8 billion and $8.3 billion, respectively, while only small amounts were directly associated with sustainable mountain development in the Middle East and North Africa.

93. Funding economic growth, political empowerment, citizenship equality and poverty reduction of mountain peoples forms part of the mandate of the International Fund for Agriculture Development. The Fund supports the development of innovative rural financial services, such as the Financing Facility for Remittances and the development of index-based weather insurance and related services, which are being piloted and tested, including in mountain areas.

V. Recommendations

94. **Since the last report of the Secretary-General on the topic of sustainable mountain development, significant progress has been made in terms of implementation, awareness-raising, institutional strengthening and international collaboration. Nevertheless, much remains to be done, especially in the light of current global challenges, including climate change, natural disasters, the food and energy crises, increasing water scarcity, desertification, ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss and migration. While mountain regions and their inhabitants are disproportionally affected by such challenges, there may also be significant opportunities in the search for solutions. Mountain systems are essential building blocks for long-term sustainable development, poverty alleviation and the transition towards a green economy. The General Assembly, in its efforts to address those challenges in a manner that is consistent with chapter 13 of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Development Goals, may wish to reiterate some of the possible courses of action for Governments such as those set out below:**

1. Recommendations related to international processes

(a) **Renew efforts to ensure that mountain issues are prioritized within development agendas and processes dealing with poverty reduction, food**

security, climate change and other issues that are critical to sustainable development in mountain areas;

(b) Promote, where relevant, the establishment of regional mechanisms for coordinated and integrated transboundary cooperation for sustainable mountain development; strengthen existing mechanisms, such as the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions, and promote the exchange of experiences and lessons learned;

(c) Support the collaborative efforts of the Mountain Partnership and encourage the active involvement of relevant governmental, civil society and private sector institutions at the national and regional levels;

(d) Increase efforts to conserve biodiversity in mountain areas and encourage multi-stakeholder cooperation for a more effective implementation of the plan of work on mountain biological diversity of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(e) Support better integration of mountain issues in intergovernmental discussions, in particular discussions on climate change and combating desertification in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; take advantage of the potential of mountain forests for carbon storage and sequestration and of their consideration in Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) and REDD-plus programmes;

(f) Integrate sustainable mountain development into strategies towards a green economy and ensure that institutional arrangements are in place to allow mountain communities to benefit from these emerging opportunities and protect mountain resources from increasing demand;

(g) Foster exchange and collaboration between Governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, research institutions and civil society to assure that sustainable mountain development receives a prominent place on the agenda of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

2. Policy recommendations

(h) Encourage the continuation of existing or the establishment of new national committees or similar institutional arrangements, bodies and mechanisms to strengthen intersectoral coordination and collaboration for sustainable development in mountain areas;

(i) Encourage greater engagement by civil society and the private sector in the development and implementation of programmes related to sustainable development in mountains;

(j) Encourage the formulation and implementation of strategies, programmes, policies and laws that specifically address mountain issues and provide an urgent response to current challenges, including climate change and soaring food prices; support developing countries and countries with economies in transition through bilateral, multilateral and South-South cooperation, as well as through non-traditional arrangements, such as decentralized cooperation;

(k) Develop strategies for adaptation and mitigation of climate change that take into account the specific situation of mountain environments and communities; integrate those strategies into the National Adaptation Programmes of Action process of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

(l) Enhance attention to disaster risk management in mountain areas, in particular with regard to rockfall, avalanches, glacial lake outburst floods, landslides and the impacts of climate change;

(m) Promote the conservation and sustainable use of increasingly scarce resources from mountain areas, especially water, through innovative management approaches and improved institutional mechanisms that cross administrative boundaries, as well as forward-looking political decisions that safeguard those resources for future generations;

(n) Elaborate strategies, programmes and policies for food security in mountains, allowing for timely responses to soaring food prices and related challenges, which disproportionally affect mountain communities;

(o) Enhance public services, particularly in the health and education sectors, and improve transport and communication infrastructures in mountain areas;

(p) Support education, extension and capacity-building programmes, in particular among local mountain communities, to further sustainable mountain development at all levels;

(q) Ensure, through more effective engagement in the decision-making process, that indigenous peoples' cultures, traditions and knowledge are fully recognized and included in development policy and planning in mountain regions, and that access and agreed upon rights to land and natural resources are respected;

(r) Foster strengthening of the role of mountain women in planning and decision-making processes that affect their communities, cultures, livelihoods and environments;

3. Recommendations related to financial mechanisms

(s) Increase levels of investment and funding for sustainable mountain development at the global, regional, national and community levels, including through innovative financial mechanisms and approaches, such as payments for environmental services and opportunities offered by the green economy;

(t) Promote and provide a supportive and enabling environment for the development of high-quality products and services from mountain areas as a means to improve livelihoods, protect mountain environments, encourage more active involvement by the private sector in the overall value chain for high-quality mountain products and improve access of mountain communities to national and international markets;

4. Recommendations for awareness-raising

(u) Support the continued development and implementation of communications, capacity-building and advocacy programmes for sustainable mountain development at all levels and take full advantage of the opportunities provided annually by the International Mountain Day on 11 December;

(v) Increase efforts to enhance awareness of the effects of climate change, as well as the risks and hazards faced in mountain areas;

5. Recommendations for research

(w) Support increased and better coordinated research efforts at all levels in order to gain an improved understanding of environmental, economic and social drivers of change affecting mountain regions and promote the collection of disaggregated data from mountain areas as the basis for informed decision-making for appropriate policies and programmes;

(x) In the context of climate change, increase efforts to monitor glaciers and run-off patterns in mountain areas in order to assess future water availability and pay specific attention to the hydrological impacts of climate change in dryland mountain ecosystems.